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Ukraine Must Decide Stance on Nuclear Issue

PM0902150393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By Ashot Nasibov; from the "Novosti" newscast] txt [Text] [Nasibov] The Belarusian parliament's decision to ratify a whole series of international treaties, including START I and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, has not so far evoked any noticeable reaction outside the republic. That is probably because this step came as no surprise, and Belarus gave no reasons for anyone to doubt its antinuclear stance. Thus, of the nuclear states remaining in what was the Soviet Union, only Ukraine has so far failed to subscribe to the pledges arising from these documents.

Its politicians attribute this to their desire to study the text more carefully, demanding additional guarantees of the republic's security from the United States and Russia and pressing for more money to be earmarked for the warhead destruction program. Earlier, after repeated delays, Kiev made a firm promise to examine the nuclear issue in February. Now, according to information provided by Radio Liberty, citing Pavlichko [as heard], chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's Foreign Policy Commission, it is unlikely that a debate will be held this month. One can understand the desire to hang onto the nuclear trump card given the deterioration in relations with Russia. But Kiev will ultimately have to decide where it stands on the question of its nuclear status since this ambiguous situation cannot last for long. The West is already working out the possibility of putting economic pressure on Ukraine.

Kiev did not accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nor did it ratify START I, and it is not obliged to comply with decisions adopted within the CIS framework. A situation is emerging where the state is free to conduct what is in practice a totally unrestricted policy in the military sphere.

The existing situation cannot be ignored any longer. It is vital to embark on serious military-political research and to elaborate a plan of action for Russia in respect of Ukraine.

Ukraine's Emergence as Regional Power Viewed

PM0502154593 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 5, Jan 93 (signed to press 26 Jan 93) pp 8-10

[Arkadiy Moshes commentary: "Nuclear Policy of a Non-Nuclear Country. Major New Military Power Has Appeared Alongside Russia"]

[Text] In less than 18 months Ukraine has succeeded in setting up its own Armed Forces, which are significantly larger than those of other former Soviet republics.

Ukraine is potentially the world's third largest nuclear power, and will remain such until the end of the millennium, if not forever.

The 276 strategic missile launchers stationed in the republic (over 1,200 nuclear warheads) and the several hundred nuclear charges for aircraft are too much of a temptation for politicians easily to let go of this arsenal.

The quantity of conventional weapons belonging to Ukraine (see table) now also determines to a considerable extent the regional balance of power in Eastern Europe. And if you take into account the quality of arms and the combat readiness of troops, which were traditionally higher in western districts of the USSR, Ukraine's status as a leading military power in the region becomes obvious. By way of a comparison, we have taken the CSFR (before the split) and the FRG—the states in East and West Europe which possess the greatest quantity of conventional weapons.

Column one shows the situation as of 1 August 1992 for Ukraine, and as of 10 January 1989 for the CSFR and FRG.

Column two shows the ceilings established by the CFE Treaty.

	Ukraine		CSFR		FRG	
	1	2	1	2	1	2
Tanks	6,318	4,080	4,585	1,435	4,900	4,100
Armored Vehicles	7,689	5,050	4,900	2,050	6,840	3,440
Artillery	3,852	4,040	3,445	1,262	3,190	2,700
Aircraft	1,494	1,090	407	345	850	900
Helicopters	229	330	101	73	450	300

Nuclear Lobby in Parliament

Treaties must be observed. But international law is not so strict on promises. This may be why official Kiev, which is spending so much time on assurances regarding its commitment to nuclear-free principles, has in fact fulfilled not a single one of its promises.

Throughout the whole of last year various political forces successfully indoctrinated public opinion in favor of abandoning nuclear-free principles.

A powerful pro-nuclear lobby consisting of some top generals and nationalist party representatives has

emerged in parliament. These deputies simply repudiate statements by the state's leaders. Thus General V. Tolubko, a member of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Committee on Defense Questions who at one time proposed elaborating a system for a defensive nuclear shield for Ukraine, declared when in Washington in September: "Ukraine will not necessarily abide by the dates and commitments enshrined in the Lisbon Protocol" (the protocol about Ukraine's accession to START I).

The idea of keeping nuclear weapons as a deterrent is shared by Supreme Soviet Chairman I. Plyushch. S. Khmara, an influential opposition leader, has repeatedly spoken in the name of deputies who believe that Ukraine should remain a nuclear power. Flexing its muscle, last April parliament adopted a special resolution in support of President Leonid Kravchuk's decision to suspend the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory, and in October it refused to approve the military doctrine, which was based on nuclear-free principles.

Ukraine's official position is also evolving under the influence of the lobbyists. In January last year it was promised to make Ukraine a nuclear-free state by 1994. In March the deadline was moved back roughly a year. Now no dates are mentioned at all, on the grounds that nothing is said about this in the 1990 Declaration on State Sovereignty.

Kiev is demanding security guarantees in exchange for voluntarily abandoning nuclear weapons. The problem of guarantees is complex in itself (guarantees from whom, against whom?) and, combined with the question of compensation (Ukraine is hoping for $1.2 billion at a time when the United States is prepared to offer just $175 million in all), could mean that the question of nuclear disarmament altogether quits the realm of practical politics.

Will Washington Lean on Kiev?

By edict of Kravchuk, all groupings of strategic nuclear forces stationed in Ukraine have been included in the country's Armed Forces. A Center for the Administrative Management of Troops of Strategic Nuclear Forces has been set up. Separate rocket and space troops are being formed. It is hard to believe that such measures help to implement nuclear-free principles.

Is it advantageous for Ukraine to keep its nuclear potential?

This is a rhetorical question—it is advantageous for any state to sit at the "top table" and ensure its national security at minimum cost (between 7 and 12 percent of states' military budgets are spent maintaining the world's nuclear forces). Ukraine is in a position to service its nuclear arsenals—there is sufficient industrial might and there are enough trained personnel. The only problem concerns testing: Ukraine has no test ranges of its own.

Even leaving aside the possibility of the accession to power of a nationalist government not bound by any international commitments, the very fact of the appearance of a sixth nuclear power may prompt a chain reaction (how will Kazakhstan, India, or Pakistan behave?) and undermine the existing system of control over nuclear weapons.

In order to prevent this, the time has come for the world to stop turning a blind eye to obvious things and to demand an answer from Ukraine to the question of its nuclear future. And then to develop a policy concerning this country accordingly.

If the state is prepared to become nuclear-free, then we must agree in the process of multilateral talks on concrete deadlines for fulfilling obligations, the amount of international aid, the future use of fissionable materials, and also strict monitoring and verification measures. Unfortunately, in this respect START II is not a very useful document.

The results of the mid-January meeting between Presidents B. Yeltsin and L. Kravchuk, despite its obvious concentration on economic questions, may become a starting point for the negotiating process and end the existing tendency for Kiev and Moscow to carefully avoid discussing the problems of disarmament.

A continuation of the policy of procrastination must be perceived as proof of Ukraine's desire to become a nuclear state, and other mechanisms must be brought into operation.

I would not like to use the word "pressure" when describing the possible development of U.S.-Ukrainian relations. However, circumstances require that states truly involved in the process of nuclear disarmament, and above all the United States, which has effectively assumed the task of regularly putting Ukraine back "on the right road" (after all, it was under U.S. influence that the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons to Russia resumed; it was Secretary of State J. Baker who secured Ukraine's signature of the Lisbon Protocol; and it is now Washington, not Moscow, that is making every effort to explain to Kiev the need to participate in the START process), occupy a firm, uncompromising position. To give way on questions of principle is effectively to submit to nuclear blackmail.

Military Alliance With Russia? No!

Judging from the excerpts of the Russian draft treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries leaked to the press in October, Moscow was insisting on preserving a unified strategic area on the territory of the two countries—that is, was regarding Ukraine's relations with Russia as an alliance.

There are serious doubts as to the correctness of such an approach, and Ukraine's rejection of the draft treaty is added confirmation of this. In purely theoretical terms, it is more advantageous for Ukraine to draw closer to

East European countries and to become the center of gravity in the region than to turn toward Russia and preserve the status of being "eternally in second place." Kiev is well aware of this. Last year Ukraine was extremely active in organizing military cooperation with its neighbors: Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria. It is not impossible that Ukraine's idea for a Baltic-Black Sea area will entail the establishment of military relations of varying intensity.

East European countries, in their turn, are interested in military cooperation with Kiev for military-technical reasons: Ukrainian plants can supply their spare parts and ammunition and update their combat vehicle stocks.

Kiev has declared its neutrality and its nonalignment with blocs, which allegedly prevented the country from joining CIS military structures. But the state's military doctrine, now in preparation, will allow Ukraine to join coalitions against a specific enemy.

Discussion of the question of enemies is quite a delicate matter, for Ukraine has no specific enemy. The draft military doctrine sees any state making territorial claims against Ukraine as a potential enemy. Unfortunately, there can still be only one interpretation of the allusion.

The Ukrainian Republican Party and the Ukrainian National Assembly have already put forward the thesis of the "Eastern threat," and the latter has called directly for the creation of an anti-Russian alliance composed of the Baltic states, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

In this context efforts to blame Russia for disorder inside Ukraine continue to leave a bad taste in the mouth. The introduction of coupons, for instance, was explained by the claim that Russia had not supplied cash, and price liberalization was attribued to the increased cost of Russian oil.

For various reasons, Russia could find itself drawn into confrontation, fraught with the danger of an arms race, with Ukraine, toward which the Eastern Europe states would gravitate.

A scenario like this would be a tragedy which can still be avoided. To do this, Russia must first abandon all hope of a military alliance with Ukraine, removing all grounds to speak of a revival of imperialism. Second, and more importantly, a regional East European policy must be vigorously activated. The region's countries need cooperation with Russia, both for arms production and for conversion. The lack of common borders means the former allies have less reason to fear Moscow's interference. The withdrawal of Russian troops has already led to a slogan: "No occupation, no occupiers!"—this testifies to a turn in public opinion toward Russia.

Give Kiev the Fleet...

"Ukraine is a maritime power and should have its own Navy"—nobody will openly argue with this thesis of Kiev's politicians. Nevertheless, Ukraine's naval policy, for wholly understandable reasons, is virtually nonexistent.

The naval forces, which according to the plan are to include 100 ships and 40,000 personnel, which are intended to defend the state's coastline, to ensure the security of the economic zone, and to maintain a favorable operational regime in the region and to be capable even temporarily of going outside the Black Sea, at present consist of two ships—the flagship Slavutich, and the "mutinous" SKR-112.

They are overshadowed by the looming presence of the Black Sea Fleet alongside—the object of Kiev's dreams—which further complicates relations between Russia and Ukraine but which cannot be divided up before 1995. The Yalta agreement, which has been broken, incidentally, on a number of important points, means in reality that Russia currently provides the Black Sea Fleet with 96 percent of its weapons and ammunition, 98 percent of the resources for engineer munitions and equipment, 85 percent of fuels and lubricants, and so on. The Fleet, which is not Russian, continues to be financed from our budget.

The Fleet's physical deterioration through wear and tear, now obvious, makes it increasingly costly to maintain, and the aims driving Russia to stubbornly cling onto the Fleet (after the departure from the Mediterranean and the reduction in Russia's shoreline) are not clear. After all, Russia's other fleets require increasing attention.

The moratorium on dividing up the Fleet until 1995 means merely delaying the solution to the problem and wasting vital time. I think it would be to the advantage of Russia, not Ukraine, to find a radical way out of the existing situation, such as dividing up the Black Sea Fleet.

Russia is quite able to accept the conditions proposed by Ukraine and to yield a sizable part of the Fleet to it. In exchange, we must try to acquire the right to use bases in the Crimea (important ones like the Kerch-Feodosiya test base, for instance). As a result, Ukraine will get what it requires for its own self-respect.

And Russia, having rid itself of the need to maintain old ships, will be able to implement a program for constructing some modern, economical destroyers and small ships more suited to carrying out patrol duty, and transfer to them the proportion of the personnel wishing to serve under the Russian flag. At the same time, one of the most powerful anti-Russian cards will be knocked out of the hands of Ukraine's nationalists.

The Black Sea tangle is not a military problem. Preserving it, like solving it, changes nothing in the description of Ukraine as the major military power of Eastern Europe and potentially a nuclear power. It is already clear that it would be an unforgivable mistake to ignore the emergence of a new center of power in the region.

CIS To Deploy Battalions Along Tajik-Afghan Border

LD0902132093 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Five battalions formed by Russia, Kazakhstan, and other member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States will soon be introduced into Tajikistan at its request. Armed clashes with antigovernment forces continue in that Central Asian republic. The local press reports the CIS battalions will be deployed along the Tajik-Afghan border to prevent Afghan mojahedin from crossing it with a view to joining the opposition Islamic militants in Tajikistan, something they have been doing a lot. The latest reports say several dozens of mojahedin are fighting on the opposition side.

Russia Proposes CIS Structural Plan Based on EC

OW0902203693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1957 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin reported that Russia has advanced the idea of organizing a coordinating structure for the CIS based on principles "approved of in the European Community." In an interview with INTERFAX the deputy cabinet head said that on February 9 Russia sent to the Commonwealth Headquarters in Minsk specific proposals on the CIS Coordinating and Consulting Committee (CCC).

The committee, according to the draft of the CIS Charter which seven of the ten CIS leaders signed in Minsk in January, would take the place of the currently existing Working Group of the Council of Heads of Commonwealth States and the Council of Heads of Commonwealth Governments.

Shokhin stressed that the Russian Federation "is not interested in forming Commonwealth state super structures." On the contrary, following the EC style, each CIS state could take turns chairing the CIS sessions. The vice premier expressed his hope that "such a version of the CIS would allow Ukraine, Moldova, and Turkmenistan to relate more pragmatically to the CIS."

The Russian Federation's proposals are still open for revisions. After the Working Group discusses them in Minsk they are expected to become topics of consideration at the upcoming session of the Council of Heads of CIS governments in Moscow this March.

Six States Create Economic Cooperation Council

LD0902201993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1934 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—A meeting of heads of foreign economic departments from states-participants in the agreement on cooperation in foreign economic activities was held here today.

The meeting was attended by delegations from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to create a council with the same name to be headed by Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev.

The council was set up in accordance with Article 11 of the intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in foreign economic activities signed on May 15, 1992.

Under provisions on the council, its major tasks are to hold consultations on foreign economic activities, elaborate recommendations to fulfill the agreements, coordinate activities on development of trade-economic relations of states-participants in the agreement and participation in the formation of inter-related trade policy as regards third countries and international economic organizations.

The council will also prepare proposals on development of the normative-legal basis of foreign economic activities, elaborate decisions on its information provision and recommendations to upgrade tariff and non-tariff methods of regulation.

Today's meeting coordinated a program of consultations on foreign economic activities to be discussed by the heads council. The major topic of the discussion was mechanism to regulate re-exports of goods by former Soviet republics, as well as establishment of the country-goods producer.

It was decided to create on all discussed issues working groups of representatives of foreign economic departments of states-council members.

Next meeting of the council is scheduled for May in Alma-Ata.

Shaposhnikov on Russian Troops in CIS Hot Spots

LD1002121693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0810 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] [Announcer] We follow with an interview with Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander of the Unified Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States. After the Soviet republics gained independence, many of them have created their national armies but they put some of the units under the unified Commonwealth command. Many problems emerged among officers who once had taken the oath but now have to take a new one.

[Shaposhnikov in Russian, fading to English report] I was against any sort of oaths. The new oath I believe is humiliating and morally detrimental to an officer.

[Announcer] Russian troops are present at different trouble spots on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Is this not a display of Russia's imperial ambitions?

[Shaposhnikov in Russian, fading to English report] Indeed, Russian Army units are used as a peacekeeping force at all trouble spots of the former Soviet Union. Their presence develops in some quarters a syndrome of Russia's imperial ambitions. But each individual case makes such inventions groundless. Take any region—Moldova, Abkhazia, South Ossetia—Russia has signed with all of them bilateral agreements on the use of the Russian troops as peacekeepers and they cope with their task.

Russia, Ukraine Hold Black Sea Fleet Talks

LD0902211993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2032 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Kiev February 9 TASS—The state delegations of Russia and Ukraine held discussions in Kiev on Tuesday [9 February] to decide the fate of the disputed Black Sea Fleet.

The delegations led by Vasiliy Durdynets, first deputy Ukrainian parliamentary chairman, and Yuriy Yarov, deputy Russian prime minister, discussed draft documents concerning the implementation of the Yalta agreement of August 3, 1992.

The parties agreed some documents which will be submitted to President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine.

The delegation heads met with Kravchuk later in the day to iron out the existing disagreements and remove obstacles towards signing an agreement on joint command of the Black Sea Fleet for a transitional period up to 1995.

The delegations will hold their next meeting in Moscow in the near future.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Feb

LD1002071393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0657 GMT 10 Feb 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 10—Newspapers highlight today the issues dealing with the referendum scheduled for April 11. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, publication of the government, points out that although the referendum is going to be about the Constitution, many people link it with a possibility to resolve the problem of "dual power." A further implementation of the reform is impossible in conditions of confrontation between the two branches of authority. "It is impermissible that the government should spend time and effort on arguments over the problem of supremacy at such a difficult time," the newspaper writes.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, publication of the parliament, believes that discussions over the forthcoming referendum make it clear enough that the authorities and political parties "are willing to consult the people over some problems which are very important for them, but what those problems are going to be—no one knows for sure." According to the newspaper, the situation may become clear only a month before the referendum.

Vitaliy Tretyakov, editor-in-chief of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, has contributed an article to his newspaper, which also deals with the referendum. "Russian politicians have done all they could for confusing the electors," he writes. In his opinion, as the referendum comes closer, the government and the parliament "will engage more and more in propaganda instead of real work, in the preparation of their victory at the referendum and 'reserve airfield' in case of defence instead of the implementation of the economic reform and law-making."

An article by Nikolay Shmelev, a writer and economist, published by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, is the most interesting of publications on economic problems. Professor Shmelev believes that the first, even if inconspicuous, signs of improvement have appeared in the Russian economy. His opinion is based on the fact that "money started working" last year in Russia. Two inevitable factors—inflation and unemployment—will be typical of the economic situation this year. Shmelev suggests that "a new, weighty Russian ruble should replace the existing one, which is worthless anyway because of rampant inflation. In other words, it is necessary to do what was done in the 20s—to introduce a chervonets, which will be convertible since the moment of its putting into circulation."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an exclusive interview, given by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to the INTERFAX news agency. He categorically rejected the idea, expressed recently, that President Yeltsin is exercising too tight control over the activities of the government, which allegedly "does not let the government work normally." "I do not know where such allegations come from, but I am saying with a full sense of responsibility that, as the head of government, I am deeply grateful to the president for having given to me all freedom of action I need," Chernomyrdin pointed out.

Now the share of Russia's military spendings in the gross national product is close to the U.S. indices, Lieutenant General Vasiliy Vorobev, head of the main financial and budget department at the Russian Defence Ministry, said in an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. He said the Defence Ministry requested some three billion rubles for 1993, but added that these enormous absolute figures reflect "the country's economic problems, specifically, financial instability, inflation, the incessant growth of prices and wages." However, in comparable prices the military budget is estimated only at 66.4 billion rubles. The figure for 1991 was 80.9 billion and for 1992—65 billion, General Vorobev said.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI reports the opening in Moscow of a branch of the U.S. Pacific Coast University [as received]. The first group consists of 200 students. Only the business and law departments are functioning so far.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes with reference to the public relations centre of the Russian Security Ministry that 428 people have died in the Amur region (Russian Far East) as a result of drinking the alcohol imported from China.

Christopher Phones Kozyrev To Discuss Yugoslavia

LD0902213193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2108 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher phoned Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev late on Tuesday [9 February] to discuss their positions on the Yugoslav conflict settlement. Both diplomats reiterated their intention to act in close contact with each other and use the mechanism of conflict settlement developed by the U.N. Security Council.

Woolsey Cited on Intelligence Community's Tasks

PM0902161393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 2

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report: "CIA Director James Woolsey: 'We Slew the Big Dragon. But There Are Plenty of Small Poisonous Snakes Left'"]

[Text] That was how James Woolsey, the new head of the CIA, described the situation in the sphere of U.S. national security. He noted at the Senate Intelligence Committee confirmation hearings that, in the absence of a threat of global nuclear war and with the end of the "Cold War," the U.S. intelligence service's mission has not gotten any easier—on the contrary, it has gotten much harder. "It was far easier to monitor the big dragon (the USSR—M.P.) too," Woolsey explained.

In James Woolsey's opinion, the problems on which the U.S. intelligence community should primarily focus its attention are the proliferation of mass destruction weapons and delivery systems, ethnic conflicts, the international drugs trade, and terrorism. Environmental problems also pose a very serious threat to U.S. national security nowadays.

Nor were economic issues overlooked. One of the most important of these issues is "the West's dangerous dependence on Near East oil imports." Woolsey also voiced the conviction that the intelligence service should get actively involved in economic counterespionage in the interests of U.S. businesses. But the prospects for the CIA's involvement in obtaining information on foreign firms are less clear—there are lots of difficulties in this area, Woolsey stated.

The CIA director also reaffirmed his intention to reorganize and possibly cut the numbers of U.S. intelligence staffers (detailed plans in this sphere have been set out in a secret report and were not made public at the hearings), and to seriously review the extremely cumbersome and, under present-day conditions, often unjustifiable system of classifying information. In conclusion, James Woolsey stressed the importance of boosting the intelligence system's efforts in the interests of the military department, especially at a time of U.S. Armed Forces personnel cuts.

A few words about the man who now heads one of the world's largest intelligence organizations. He was born 21 September 1941. He was educated at Stanford, Oxford, and Yale. He has worked in four U.S. administrations. He was a staffer at the National Security Council, an adviser on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and under secretary of the Navy in the Carter government. It was in this job that he first encountered specific intelligence work—he was in charge of this area. Later Woolsey once again—this time under Bush—became intimately involved with the problems of U.S. foreign intelligence: He headed the special presidential commission which produced recommendations for the reorganization of the CIA and America's entire intelligence community. Moreover, James Woolsey took part in the strategic arms reduction talks between the United States and the USSR in Geneva and headed the U.S. delegation to the CFE talks.

According to colleagues, the new CIA chief has strong analytical qualities. Washington believes that, under him, America's intelligence officers will pay more attention to the careful and comprehensive analysis of information rather than to the collection of information as such. According to U.S. specialists once again, James Woolsey is well thought of both in Congress and within the U.S. intelligence community itself.

Kolt Testimony Reveals U.S. 'Confusion' Over Russian Policy

PM0902133593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Feb 93 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "U.S. Intelligence Does Not Understand What Is Happening Here"]

[Text] Washington—The hearings which have begun in Congress have revealed confusion and muddle in the U.S. intelligence community over assessments of events in the former Union and, most importantly, over forecasts of the future development of the situation.

George Kolt, who heads the office of Russia and Central Eurasia—that is what Washington officials now call the USSR—at the CIA, indicated at the hearings at least three areas of "conflicting opinion."

First, political: According to Kolt, the intelligence community is not sure whether Yeltsin should go for it and hold new elections and form a new constitutional system, or stick to the policy of compromises and slow, gradual movement forward.

Second, economic: In the view of some analysts, "shock therapy" is the only path to reforms; others think that if the changes are too radical, the consequences could be destructive.

Finally, there is no common view either concerning the destiny of Russia's top leaders. When Kolt was asked whether Yeltsin represented the "best hope" as a pro-Western leader, there was no clear answer either way:

The CIA man rated Yeltsin highly, but also stressed meaningfully that there are other reformers and entrepreneurs in Russia.

G. Kolt also observed that "there is the possibility and the danger" of a further split in the former Union, now Russia, but that the "likelihood of this is not high."

While noting that the reforms in Russia have already gone far enough for the "hard-liners" to be able to expect to seize power successfully, Kolt immediately qualified this by saying: But even attempts to seize power could result in chaos and have the gravest consequences for Russia and the whole world. The CIA staffer went on to say that the present cabinet of Viktor Chernomyrdin is continuing the previous reform course, although he pointed out that the government is "less cohesive" than the Gaydar government.

The intelligence community's admission of disagreements and conflicting opinion in its midst is noteworthy not only for the fact that it has essentially been made public for the first time. What is more important is that the arguments in the intelligence community are probably a reflection of arguments in other administration departments, associated in one way or another with foreign policy and national security. The lack of a clear idea of what is happening here and how it is happening certainly makes the White House's task of devising its own Russian policy harder.

It is possible, of course, that some progress will be made once the administration has decided on the precise shape of its economic and domestic policy, which Clinton will present to Congress on 17 February in the form of the "State of the Union" message. According to my information, at around this time there should be a meeting between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Minister Andrey Kozyrev—either in the Near East, where Christopher will be on tour, or in Europe, where the secretary of state goes after his Near East tour.

The meeting agenda will contain essentially one item: When to hold the Russian-U.S. summit the Kremlin is pushing for, and why.

The problems accompanying the process of the Clinton administration's elaboration of a Russian policy are made worse by structural uncertainties: Former journalist Strobe Talbott, given responsibility, as it were, for Russian policy, has not yet been confirmed in his post by Congress and therefore has no authority to function fully. Second, his functions are not defined accurately enough and the nature of his relationship, say, with the assistant secretary of state who traditionally takes care of the former Union, or, say, with the corresponding official in the Pentagon is not defined: Who is subordinate to whom, who is superior?

There have already been reports in the press—citing a source in the Russian Foreign Ministry—that Moscow is ready to deal directly with Talbott alone. The question then is what is the role of Ambassador Thomas Pickering or Ambassador Vladimir Lukin? And another question: What view will other administration departments take of this kind of "exclusiveness" and will they not try to mess things up for major sovietologist but inexperienced bureaucrat Talbott—with all the ensuing consequences? Including consequences for us.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Envoy's Visit to Iraq

LD1002114893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Igor Melekhov, deputy head of the Middle East Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, is continuing his visit to Iraq, the purpose of which is to continue a diplomatic dialogue with the Iraqi side on the more topical aspects of the current situation around Iraq, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS today.

Russia remains committed to a complete and unconditional fulfillment of all resolutions of the U.N. Security Council on the post-crisis settlement in the Persian Gulf area, he said. The Russian side believes the main task of Melekhov's visit consists in continuing to promote international efforts, aimed at putting into effect the world community's resolutions on Iraq.

Speaking about bilateral relations with Iraq, the Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that the discussion of the state of those relations, especially of a possibility of their restoration, is inseparably connected with the implementation of the corresponding resolutions of the U.N. Security Council, with the degree of the sincerity and honesty of Baghdad in cooperating with the U.N. and its specialised agencies.

Stance on Iraq 'Unchanged'

PM0902205593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Feb 93 pp 1, 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Russian Diplomat States Desire To 'Strengthen Friendly Ties with Iraq' Foreign Ministry Gives Assurance that Moscow's Policy on Baghdad Remains Unchanged"]

[Text] The visit to Baghdad that began Monday by Igor Melekhov, deputy chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near East Administration, has produced some lively comment in the mass media. This is the first time since the Gulf War that Moscow has sent such a high-ranking official representative to the Iraqi capital.

"I want to acquaint the Iraqi leadership with Russia's desire to strengthen relations with Iraq," Melekhov told the journalists who met him in Baghdad, AFP reports. REUTER quotes an even more characteristic statement—"the aim of the trip is to strengthen friendly ties with Iraq."

The Russian Foreign Ministry, which we asked to comment, expressed surprise at the quotations. "Judging by everything, the journalists have taken Melekhov's words out of context and have inaccurately conveyed the sense of what he said," a high-ranking diplomat conjectured. "Russia's position on Iraq remains unchanged," Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the North Africa and Near East Department—which includes the administration where Melekhov works—stated. According to Posuvalyuk, contacts with Iraq at diplomatic level were never severed: "The fact that Russia has retained an embassy in Baghdad and levers of influence over Saddam Husayn has played a positive role. That is recognized in the West as well."

Melekhov's trip was long in the pipeline, but because of the allies' combat operations against Iraq it was postponed three times. Our aim is to tell the Iraqi authorities yet again that the Security Council resolutions must be unconditionally carried out," Posuvalyuk said.

"At the same time, we cannot close our eyes to the potential—built up over the years—for cooperation with Iraq, and we would like to make use of that potential in the future. But this can only happen on condition that Baghdad carry out all the world community's demands and if sanctions are lifted."

According to other Foreign Ministry sources, Melekhov will be discussing in Baghdad the possible repayment of Iraqi debts. The visit will last for two or three days. Whether there will be a meeting with Saddam Husayn is not known. Informed contacts have hinted that Moscow has not been pressing for this. "Contacts at foreign minister level strike us as ideal for this trip," one of them said. At the same time, Husayn may find himself in a delicate position. Following the Iraqi leader's personal reception of the "delegation" from Zhirinovskiy's party and of several opposition figures, can he ignore an official representative of the Russian leadership traveling to Baghdad for the first time after a two-year break?

Summit With Moldova Ends With Trade Agreements

LD0902202793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1917 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Summit talks between Russia and Moldova ended in the Kremlin today with the signing of intergovernmental agreement on free trade and trade and economic cooperation. The agreements were signed in the presence of the Presidents Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Mircea Snegur of Moldova by the heads of government of the two countries.

Boris Yeltsin told journalists after the ceremony that the participants in the talks had reached good accord on all items on the agenda of the talks. On some of them agreements were signed, on others general understanding was reached. Talks also covered "political questions and problems of the Dniester area," the Russian president said. Yeltsin favoured stepping up the negotiating process, especially since the two countries had unique experience where the flames of war were extinguished by efforts of the two presidents. Yeltsin said that the time table for the withdrawal of the Russian Fourteenth Army from Moldova was dependent on the definition of the status of the Dniester area, which was being negotiated.

Yeltsin said that during the talks, humanitarian problems were discussed relating to the fate of the Moldovan citizens under investigation in the Dniester area at present. "I think that after we jointly address the problem, it will be solved."

The situation of the Russian speaking inhabitants of Moldova is now improving, according to the Russian leader. "Migration is diminishing, and no reports of violation of the rights of the Russian speaking people in Moldova are forthcoming," he said. But this does not mean that "everything is fine," Yeltsin continued to say. The problem must be finally resolved so as to make Moldova "whole, united, indivisible and flourishing."

Mircea Snegur told journalists that the talks were held in "a traditional atmosphere of mutual understanding." Touching on the problem of the Dniester area, the Moldovan president said that two groups of experts had been set up to discuss "different versions of the special legal status of the left bank Moldova within the frame of a single indivisible state."

"We have made a big step forward towards the final settlement of the dispute. I want to believe that the solution will be reached in 1993," Mircea Snegur said.

Asked about the withdrawal of Russia's Fourteenth Army from Moldova, Yeltsin stressed that there is a political decision on the withdrawal. But the army will only be withdrawn when "both presidents feel confident that no fire will flare up there." Although the actual withdrawal has already begun, the sad experience in the Baltics has convincingly shown that "it is harmful to make haste in matters of this kind. If troops are withdrawn to an unprepared locale, the man with the gun will be indignant." This is inadmissible, the Russian president said.

"We will carry out a gradual, well prepared withdrawal, while awaiting the solution of the problem concerning the status of the Dniester area as the basis for the full withdrawal of the troops," Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin, Snegur View 14th Army Withdrawal

OW0902201793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1956 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During their meeting with journalists which followed Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Moldovan President Mircea Snegur meeting on Tuesday [9 February] in Moscow, the Presidents ascertained with great

satisfaction that they managed "to extinguish the fire of war" in Transdniester by joint efforts. To this effect Yeltsin advocated integrity of Moldova. He pointed out that according to available information "the mood of the non-Moldovan population in Moldova has improved, migration has sharply reduced, the number of claims on violation of rights of Russian-speaking citizens has gone down."

Speaking about problems of 14th Russian Army stationed in Transdniester, Yeltsin noted that at present a group of experts is developing an agreement on status of the army and on terms of its final withdrawal. "The forces will leave Moldovan territory," Russian President said, "when we with President Snegur are sure that another fire will not flare up there." He also said that sad experience of the Baltic states testifies to the fact that one should not be in a hurry solving this issue. "One cannot withdraw an army if living accommodations and communications are not ready otherwise we shall receive a dissatisfied man with a rifle," Yeltsin underlined.

Presidents emphasized that neither side has put forward any political provisions for development of economic Russian-Moldovan cooperation.

Prime Ministers Sign Trade, Debt Accords

LD0902155893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Intergovernmental talks between Russia and Moldova ended here today with the signing of four accords. The heads of government of the two countries Viktor Chernomyrdin and Andrei Sangheli signed agreements on the mutual establishment of trade missions and the procedure of regulating debt obligations in mutual settlement of accounts for 1992 and the formalisation of intergovernment credits. They also signed protocols on the realisation of agreements between the governments and the National Banks of the two countries in the field of monetary and credit relations and on property questions between the government of the Russian Federation and the government of the Republic of Moldova.

Responding to questions from ITAR-TASS after the signing, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said he was "satisfied with the talks". He favoured closer contacts between enterprises of the two countries in solving many problems that arise. Asked if there had been political preconditions for the economic accords signed today, Chernomyrdin said that "only economic problems were considered". "We the governments should concentrate on the economy, I think. This is what people are expecting from us" the Russian premier said. He added he wanted the government to be less involved with politics.

Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli stressed that "if the economy is effective, the politicians will find it easier" to work. Assessing the talks in Moscow, he noted that "many economic problems were solve in principle", including those concerning the prime needs of the Moldovan economy at the close of the winter season and during preparations for the spring field work.

"We also signed documents which will enable us to carry on work to determine the status of Moldovan enterprises on Russian territory and Russian enterprises on Moldovan territory" Sangheli said. He expressed hope that talks between the presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur, in the Kremlin would be "also fruitful".

It is expected that after a round of talks in the Kremlin, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Andrei Sangheli would sign two more agreements—on trade and economic cooperation in 1993 and on free trade.

Commenting on the intergovernmental talks, Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin said they were characterised by "sound pragmatism on both sides". Shokhin added that "normal trade and economic relations are being restored between Russia and Moldova, which proceed from the interests of the two peoples".

"This pragmatic approach to trade and economic questions will help normalise many political problems as well," the Russian vice premier stressed.

Policy on Yugoslavia Outlined for UN Commission

LD1002121293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1910 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Objectivity, lack of prejudice, and careful consideration - this is Russia's stand regarding the Yugoslav drama, Vyacheslav Bakhmin, a representative with the Russian delegation, said today at a session of the UN Human Rights Commission.

The events in the former Yugoslavia are giving rise to pain and concern in Russia, he noted. This is not just because of geographical proximity but also a result of the historical links and secure bonds of friendship which have linked our peoples over many years. This is why Russia is genuinely interested in a long-awaited state of peace replacing grief, death, and the sufferings of people on the territory of the former Yugoslavia as soon as possible.

Condemning the abominable practice of "ethnic cleansing," the Russian Federation entirely supports the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly during the course of its current session which clearly indicates that people who carry out or give orders to carry out acts of "ethnic cleansing" bear personal responsibility and must face trial. We welcome the setting up, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 780, of a UN commission of experts for the investigation of war crimes on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, V. Bakhmin noted. Recently, the Russian representative went on to say, the

mass media and certain politicians have made more frequent comments to the effect that Russia has been adopting a pro-Serbian stance in its attitude toward events in Yugoslavia. I should like to clarify this. We are not proceeding from pro-, but rather from anti-Serbian positions. In doing so our diplomacy proceeds from the unacceptable nature of any artificial division of the protagonists into "us" and "them," deemed "good" and "bad" in advance. It is difficult for us to understand when all the attention is focused on only one of the conflicting sides while no light is thrown on the actions, often no less cruel or more justifiable. And it is, of course, intolerable that, as sometimes happens, an entire people should be accused of crimes. Only specific individuals can be to blame and it is they who must be punished. Taking one side will not facilitate an escape from the impasse of Yugoslavia, but will rather draw the knot of the conflict even tighter.

Russia continues to believe that ultimately the way out of the Yugoslav impasse is at the level of politics rather than methods of force. Russia is wholly committed to the success of the Geneva peace process. Russian diplomacy sees the plan of its cochairmen, Cyrus Vance and David Owen, as a reasonable alternative to the bloodshed and is doing everything dependent upon it to ensure that the document meets with the approval of the UN Security Council, V. Bakhmin stressed.

Kozyrev on West's Understanding of Yugoslavia

OW0902145493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1428 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev supposes that the new American administration and the West in general may still not fully understand the complex processes going on in the former Yugoslavia. In an interview with the German magazine STERN, he said: "Our evaluation here is more competent that that of the West, and so one must take Russia into consideration." According to the minister, Russia supports the "Vance-Owen plan" for settling the crisis in Bosnia and Hercegovina and is convinced that there is no alternative to the negotiation process. "Military intervention cannot bring peace," emphasized Chernomyrdin.

Official Denies Plans for Leaders To Visit Japan

OW0902161093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Report on interview with Nikolay Solovyev, director of the Foreign Ministry's Asia-Pacific Department, by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The time for Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Tokyo has not been postponed, since it was never agreed upon." This is how the chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Asia- Pacific Department, Nikolay Solovyev, commented on the news media reports that the visit "might be postponed from February-March to a later period".

The Japanese wanted Kozyrev to come to Tokyo in the late winter or early spring, indeed, the diplomat told INTERFAX. "For our part, we promised nothing in this connection," he said.

The diplomat found it hard to say when such a visit could take place. He made it clear that much will depend on "our internal circumstances", as well as on how "our relations with Japan will progress".

So far Russia's Foreign Ministry has received no instructions as to preparations for a visit to Tokyo by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who was invited by a Japanese public organization. "Rutskoy and other Russian leaders evidently have many such invitations. However, in concrete terms, no preparations for the vice-president's trip to Japan are in progress," the diplomat explained.

So far, he said, the Russian Foreign Ministry has no official information concerning the recent statement by Japan's Foreign Minister, Michio Watanabe, who, according to reports from Tokyo, urged Russia to apologize for the death of 50 thousand Japanese prisoners of war at Soviet camps. "The Foreign Ministry can react only upon receipt of the appropriate information," the diplomat said.

Solovyev positively assessed the recent statement by Japan's Prime Minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, on the need to resolve the problem of the northern territories as soon as possible. "We also believe that it's necessary to sign a peace treaty with Japan. What approach to resolving this issue should be used is another matter. In this area our point of view and Japan's attitude do not coincide," he said.

DPRK Reportedly Sought Russian Scientists To Modernize Missiles

LD1002093693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0801 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk February 10 TASS—High-ranking diplomats of the North Korean Embassy in Moscow were involved in recruiting a group of Russian scientists for work in Pyongyang in order to modernise North Korean missiles, according to Valeriy Tretyakov, head of the Chelyabinsk Department of the Russian Security Ministry.

Scientists were told that they are employed under state control, according to Tretyakov, who told the "CHELYABINSKIY RABOCHIY" newspaper that "as far as we have revealed, the action was carried out by the Korean

side deliberately in order to use Russian scientific potential to modernise its missile forces in a short period of time. Russian specialists had to work in a state research institute which made the whole situation look legal".

He added that diplomats of the North Korean Embassy were involved in the action and that two high-ranking embassy officials were ordered to leave the country in 24 hours by the Russian authorities after the deal was exposed.

It all began in February of 1992 when a certain Anatoliy Rubtsov, posing for a representative of the Russian government, appeared in the machine-designing bureau in Miass and invited local researchers to work abroad. Initially, China and North Korea were mentioned. The design bureau was in financial plight at the moment as it lost most of the state defence orders and "the proposal of Rubtsov was met with interest". Researchers were offered monthly wages from 1,500 to 4,000 dollars, according to the newspaper.

Finally a group numbering 60 people was organised. It included designers of strategic missile weapons, Tretyakov said, adding that ten members of the group managed to visit North Korea last August where they found out that the contractor had serious intentions.

The group left their jobs, bypassed state bodies and received the necessary exit documents through commercial structures, but was detained late last October at the Moscow International Sheremetyevo-2 airport.

The scientists stayed for a long time in Moscow still hoping to get a permission to leave. In January they returned back to Miass.

Russia has signed the treaty on non-proliferation of strategic armaments and thus carries certain commitments. For these reasons the scientists were not allowed out of the country, Tretyakov said.

UAE Arms Fair To Feature Russian High-Tech Weapons

LD0902133993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0525 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] An international arms fair opens in the United Arab Emirates on 13 February. POSTFAKTUM has learned from sources close to Russia's exhibitors that some of the very latest Russian weapons systems will be on display, and in particular an anti-missile air-defense system regarded as the best in its class. According to military specialists, the Gulf War showed up a number of significant shortcomings in the Patriot missile. This prompted U.S. manufacturers, in their quest to improve the Patriot, to examine the equivalent Russian weapon and its advantages.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Tkvarcheli Aid Deliveries

LD1002094793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry has urged warring sides in Abkhazia not to frustrate further deliveries of humanitarian aid to Tkvarcheli cut off from the rest of the world, to continue evacuation of the population from the city.

"At present more than 300 tons of humanitarian aid, including from the International Red Cross, have piled up in the area of Adler," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday [10 February]. "Their delivery has been suspended and is linked by parties to the conflict to several conditions that have nothing to do with the relief aid operation. Thus the lives of thousands of residents of various nationalities of this mining city are again jeopardised."

"To this end, Russian transport helicopters, food aid have been concentrated and accommodation for the evacuees prepared in Sochi," the statement runs. "However, this operation was on several occasions nearly frustrated under far-fetched pretexts and in spite of the reached agreements. Nevertheless, 139 tons of food and drugs have been delivered to the city and more than a thousand women, children and old people evacuated from this blockaded mountainous city in the two-week operation."

"In case of suspension of further humanitarian aid all responsibility for the continuing suffering by residents of Tkvarcheli will rest with those who frustrate this humanitarian operation carried out under the UN aegis," the statement stresses. "Considering that Russians make up a large proportion of the residents, the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation demands that they should not be turned into hostages of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict."

Kyrgyz President Arrives for Talks With Yeltsin

LD1002094293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev arrived in Moscow on Wednesday [10 February] to meet his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin.

The subject of the meeting is not officially announced, however, it can be predicted that the talk will concentrate on economic issues.

The economy of Kyrgyzstan is facing a catastrophic situation. Industrial and agricultural production dropped by one third, inflation is growing.

Navy To Withdraw, Disband Baltic Fleet Units

OW0902200393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1942 GMT 9 Feb 93

["457 Russian Baltic Fleet Units Will Be Pulled Out From the Baltics or Disbanded"—BALTFAX headline; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 308 Russian Baltic Fleet unions [as received] will be withdrawn from the territories of Estonian, Latvia and Lithuania to their new stations in Russia, 149 units being slated for disbandment, Admiral Yegorov, CinC [commander in chief] Baltic Fleet, said this in an interview for Kaliningrad's daily paper "STRAZH BALTIKI" (BALTIC SENTINEL).

In spite of losing many installations in the Baltic republics, the Russian Baltic Fleet, in the opinion of the CinC, will still remain a "normal combat structure", with two naval bases in Baltiisk and Kronstadt (Leningrad Region). "The Russian Baltic Fleet will never cease to exist," the admiral said.

Government To Review CIS Economic Ties

OW0902191693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 9 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government is going to dedicate its coming sessions to the issues of strategy of Russia's economic cooperation with CIS countries. In this regard, the RF State Committee for Cooperation has drafted the following proposals:

The Memorandum, which the RF State Committee for Cooperation presented to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and other Cabinet members, indicates that Russia will have to come to grips with two trends in establishing its relations with CIS countries:

—the integrative trend, which is stipulated by close economic ties that have taken shape as a result of the traditional division of labor, as well as cultural and demographic factors;

—the disintegrative trend, which is stipulated by the process of obtaining sovereignty by the new states and their aspiration of economic independence.

Now, in the opinion of the RF State Committee for Cooperation, the second trend is dominating, and this factor "should be taken into account at the program's practical implementation stage."

Heads of the RF State Committee for Cooperation reason that in spite of the existing controversy among the CIS states, the efforts aimed at establishing economic, social, military and political relations are translating into a civilized legal process.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Since the beginning of 1992, the CIS heads of states and heads of governments have had 20 sessions each, when the parties signed over 260 multilateral agreements and resolutions. Apart from that, in 1992 Russia signed nearly 160 bilateral agreements with former Soviet republics. Russia has signed trade and economic agreements for 1993 with all the CIS countries, except Moldova. Credit and mutual accounting agreements were concluded with the Baltic countries.

The RF State Committee for Cooperation maintains that one of its principal achievements has been establishment of the CIS Inter-State Bank (ISB), inception of councils for railroad, power supply, space exploration, scientific and technical information, hydro- meteorology, environmental protection, advisory councils for labor, social protection, migration, and a statistics committee.

The RF State Committee for Cooperation is proceeding from the premise that "despite knowledgeable drawbacks," the CIS organizational structure, under the present-day situation, "stands out as one of Russia's most important instruments for pursuing its policy with respect to the former Soviet Union republics." In the meantime, the authors of the Memorandum admit that the mechanism of establishment of multilateral relations has not been finalized.

Representatives of the RF State Committee for Cooperation acknowledge that last year they failed to resolve some of the consequential issues in the interests of Russia, such as reinstatement of economic ties with former Soviet republics to a desirable degree.

They qualify as negative factors, which are obstructing their recovery, the "ongoing economic crisis, aspirations by some of the new states to divert the available resources in order to satisfy their own requirements or export their produce outside the Commonwealth, drastic changes in their pricing proportions and outbreaks of political ambitions of some of the political leaders." "Russia's reduction of fuel, power and raw material supplies to some of the former Soviet republics also had a negative role to play in this contexts."

By the end of the first quarter of 1993, the RF State Committee for Cooperation is going to compile for the Russian Cabinet a report on the socio-economic situation in the CIS countries in 1992, with situation assessments for these countries for 1993. The Committee is also committing itself to developing a long-term strategy for securing Russia's economic interests in the former Soviet republics.

This year, the Committee is recommending that the Russian Cabinet sign the following bilateral agreements:

—for monetary and credit relations, with Moldova and Georgia;

—for trade procedures, with Moldova, Lithuania and Georgia;

—for trade and economic cooperation, with Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Latvia and Estonia

—for foreign debts, with Azerbaijan, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia (also with Armenia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan since the protocols in this regard with these countries expired on January 13).

In the near future, Russia will complete its talks with Belarus, Moldova and Tajikistan in regards to settling the parties' liabilities for mutual accounting and procedures for allocating inter-state credits and loans.

The RF State Committee for Cooperation is regarding as highly important the trade and economic agreements for 1993 which Russia in planning to sign with Belarus, Moldova, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. These agreements will be made to determine the volume of mutual supplies of the most important kinds of produce.

The Russian government is advised, in terms of priority, to settle "highly complicated" problems of Russia's mutual accounting with CIS countries, as well as its credit-and-monetary relations with them. In the opinion of the RF State Committee for Cooperation, the solution of all these problems has been be largely facilitated by the inception of the CIS Inter-State Bank. The signatory countries, however, are yet to complete their talks in regards to the transfer of the technical credits, which Russia's Central Bank has already provided, to their national banks in terms of a state debt.

IF Note: In early February, Russia signed bilateral agreements in regards to the procedures for settling the parties' liabilities in mutual accounting for 1992 an inter-state credit with nine other former Soviet republics (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan). According to the assessments made by experts at the RF State Committee for Cooperation, the inter-government credit (state debt) to Russia by the former Soviet republics amounts to over 600 Bn [billion] rubles.

During the coming talks with the CIS partners on conditions for allocation and settlement of state credits, the RF State Committee for Cooperation recommends that the debtor countries be liable to paying, as a minimum, a 10-percent annual interest on their debts. The authors of the Memorandum deem it especially important to make sure that the CIS countries should collateralize the Russian credits by their real estate, Russian rubles, supplies of vitally important goods, gold and hard currency reserves, and other assets.

In the first quarter of 1993, Russia will sign non-trade payment agreements with the ruble-zone countries to uphold the interests of the Russian Army troops stationed on their territories, and provide social protection to the Russian-speaking population there.

Experts reason that the presidential decree which Boris Yeltsin signed on Monday, February 8, in regards to Russia's (as the Soviet Union's legal successor) accepting upon itself all the rights to the real estate and other property of the former Soviet Union abroad, is likely to have a serious impact on the talks Russia is conducting with its CIS partners on the issues specified in the Memorandum by the RF State Committee for Cooperation.

The Russia president's decree contains a reference to the agreement he signed with the CIS heads of states in July, 1992, regarding redistribution of property of the former Soviet Union abroad. That agreement establishes a share of overseas property (percent) which each former Soviet Union is entitled to.

On the basis of this agreement Azerbaijan was allocated 1.64%, Armenia 0.86%, Kazakhstan 3.86%, Kyrgyzstan 0.95%, Moldova 1.29%, Russia 61.34%, Tajikistan 0.82%, Turkmenistan 0.7%, Ukraine 16.37%, and Uzbekistan 3.27%.

INTERFAX has been advised by President Yeltsin's office that a complete text of the presidential decree was still not available.

In its future releases, the Presidential Bulletin will present the opinions on this issue by the CIS leaders and their experts.

Referendum Issues

Further on Republic Heads Meeting To Discuss Referendum

MK0902100193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 93 p 1

[Radik Batyrshin article: "Heads of Ex-Autonomies Meet With Yeltsin Again. Internal Russian Summit as Step Toward Referendum or Means To Avoid It"]

[Text] The Council of Heads of Republics which opens today will be an important stage in the Yeltsin-Khasbulatov referendum battle. What is at stake in this round is the former autonomous entities' votes "for" or "against" the plebiscite. According to long-established tradition, Boris Yeltsin's meeting with the provincial captains was preceded by a Khasbulatov prelude—a seminar of chairmen of soviets of people's deputies of the components of the Russian Federation opened at the Russian Academy of Administration yesterday. The head of the Russian parliament was present at the opening of the seminar. The seminar's declared agenda—"the study of political and economic aspects and exchange of leading experience of lawmaking and state administration, and the examination of other topical problems." The hidden agenda—to persuade the periphery that the plebiscite is not "timely."

For Boris Yeltsin, the overriding task at the internal Russian summit is to obtain a statement from the heads of the former autonomous entities in support of the Russia-wide referendum. The importance of this support for the Russian president is obvious—the heads of the republics played a significant role in the December compromise, and the council's authority has long exceeded its consultative status. But the attitude of the leaders of Russia's republics to the April referendum is very mixed. Boris Yeltsin's "support group" from the "subsidized" former autonomous entities is in favor of a plebiscite with no reservations, hoping, not without reason, that the president "will not forget it." Thus in Chuvashia the Supreme Soviet Presidium has already set about preparing for the referendum. But precisely because of their perpetual loyalty to the president, these republics' voice has no great weight in the game of "referendum as the continuation of reforms." For Boris Yeltsin, far more importance attaches to "defiant" Bashkortostan, Karelia, Sakha (Yakutia), Tatarstan, and the other former autonomous entities that hide behind their broad shoulders. The peripheral malcontents are very well aware that both the president and the head of parliament need them. Therefore, to give unequivocal support to one side or the other would be to weaken their own position. Conversely, by oscillating between the two, they gain points.

The "defiant" heads of republics are not exactly delighted about the referendum. They explain their position by saying that in their view the "Rumyantsev" draft Russian Federation Constitution is far from perfect. They therefore do not consider it sensible to put it to a plebiscite. Furthermore, the stance of the executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission toward Russia's republics is making those republics increasingly irritated. If only because the new draft constitution does not recognize their status as states, which is enshrined in the existing Russian Federation Fundamental Law. This attitude on the part of the former autonomous entities was reflected in a statement issued by the heads of republic at the December Congress of People's Deputies. It is clear from this why the first group of questions at the Council of Heads of Republics session is devoted to the principles of state structure, that is, the draft constitution. And the Russian president is apparently prepared to "sacrifice" Oleg Rumyantsev—back at the first session of the Council of Heads of Republics in fall 1992 he listened carefully to demands that Rumyantsev be removed from his post. At the second session the displeasure of the heads of republics was actually recorded in the minutes. It can be assumed that today only a miracle will enable Oleg Rumyantsev to hold onto his posts as Constitutional Commission executive secretary. Furthermore, the hard line taken by the author of the draft constitution toward the former autonomous entities enables them to say: "Unless we can reach agreement on the fundamentals of state structure, there can be no question of putting them to the referendum." Moreover, the former autonomous entities are afraid that vague wordings in the referendum could make it possible to push through provisions which would be detrimental to their autonomy.

The second group of questions for the council session is ultra-traditional—the mechanism for implementing the Federation Treaty. This document will soon be a year old, but the republics have yet to receive in full the autonomy proclaimed in it, and the impression in the peripheral capitals is that they are the only ones who care about the Federation Treaty. The heads of the republics are proposing that the treaty relations between them and the center should become a reality, through appropriate mechanisms. Hence the third group of questions which will be discussed at the Council of Heads of Republics—the concept of the Russian Federation's foreign policy. The periphery lays claim to participation in foreign policy, presently "usurped" by the Russian Foreign Ministry. In fact, the republics believe there should be consultations between them and the Foreign Ministry. "If Russia is a federation, its components should be in touch with its foreign policy"—that is their stance.

The Russian president may agree to their demands regarding the draft constitution, the Federation Treaty, and foreign policy in exchange for support for the referendum. It is highly dubious that even the most independent-minded heads of republics would resist a tough proposal from Yeltsin along the lines of "you back me, and..." But this scenario would give rise to the possibility of the inclusion of local issues in the plebiscite, along the lines of the wording of last year's referendum in Tatarstan, which is highly undesirable to the

Kremlin. But there is another possibility: that the heads of republics will ask the president, the head of parliament, and the Constitutional Court chairman to reconvene the conciliation commission and review the decision on the referendum. And then Boris Yeltsin will have a splendid opportunity to avoid the plebiscite—in the name of preserving "public calm," to accommodate the "wishes of the working people" of the republics to postpone the referendum to some unspecified future date.

No Consensus Reached

LD0902130593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—"The administrative heads of Russia's constituent republics, meeting here, have failed to reach a concensus on the holding of a referendum to determine the underlying principles of the new Russian constitution," Press Secretary of the Russian President Vyacheslav Kostikov told journalists today. "Their views differed, but most of the meeting participants displayed a very cautious attitude to the referendum. Practically all the heads of the constituent republics have expressed primarily concern about the economic difficulties of some republics. They fear that the referendum will inevitably produce a polarisation of the Russian society and will divert the people from economic problems. Therefore, the heads of the republics have called for the referendum's postponement or moved to think up some sort of a moratorium on it," Kostikov noted.

"The Russian president did not express a clear-cut attitude to the referendum today," Kostikov stated. "He said that he had listened with great attention to the views expressed by the heads of the republics, but reserved the right to think them over," he added. The press secretary did not rule out efforts to seek some sort of a compromise in order to find an agreed form of a constitutional agreement, which would clearly delimit the powers among different branches of the government without resorting to such a serious measure as a referendum, and to avoid the society's politicization, giving grounds for definite apprehensions. "It was decided," Kostikov stated, "to start consultations among different branches of the government with the participation of Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Constitutional Court. A conciliatory commission, formed during the last Congress of People's Deputies, will apparently meet within the next few days. It will try to find a formula for a constitutional compromise."

According to Kostikov, this will be a sort of constitutional convention between different branches of the government, which will be vested, in fact, with constitutional powers, in order to stop the confrontation among different authorities, which tells so negatively on Russia's political life today.

The press secretary also said that Valeriy Zorkin, who attended the meeting of the heads of the constituent republics, has called for a moratorium on the referendum, saying that "it is necessary to try to find a conciliatory formula, on which the president, the Supreme Soviet and the judiciary could rely, and to avoid a referendum".

Speaking on the main principles of the state system of the Russian Federation, President of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Mikhail Nikolayev stressed the need to rigidly delineate the powers of the executive, legislative and judiciary authorities. "The Russian president," he noted, "was elected by all the people. Hence, he is Russia's supreme official. The president's role in strengthening the Russian statehood must be enhanced." In his opinion, and with due account of historical experience and traditions, as well as of the inexperience of Russia's young democracy, the presidential form of government would be best suited to the present situation, when there are no real party structures in the country. "The weakening of the president's role," Nikolayev said, "would inevitably provoke an unbridled struggle for power."

Kostikov also noted that the Constitutional Commission and Oleg Rumyantsev, its secretary, came under severe criticism during the meeting. Its participants noted that the commission had "usurped practically all the functions linked with the elaboration of the draft for the new constitution and rarely consulted representatives from the constituent republics".

Meeting Called 'Serious Defeat' for Yeltsin

LD0902211293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] [Announcer] Tuesday, 9 February, has become a day of extraordinary activity by all Russian power structures. The heads of republics within the Russian Federation attended a meeting of their council at Moscow's President Hotel. Boris Yeltsin also took part in their work. The meeting discussed the issue of the April referendum. The leaders of republics failed to arrive at a common view of the problem. Comentator Andrey Krasnov, my colleague, is at the microphone.

[Krasnov] To all appearances, the meeting at the President Hotel has become a serious defeat for Boris Yeltsin. His stakes in the course of his talks with the leaders of former autonomies were extremely high. In fact, the issue of whether they support the president or Ruslan Khasbulatov was considered. The issue of the referendum was discussed for two and a half hours, but Boris Yeltsin failed to gain support for his stand. The president was to have given a report at the meeting of the heads of republics, but this did not take place. Moreover, he left the session before it ended on the pretex of meeting the president of Moldova.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, Yeltsin's press secretary, was the first to react to all these events. He made a statement

saying that the majority of participants in the meeting had voiced a very cautious attitude toward the referendum. The executive power, he said, favors a compromise and is prepared to avoid such a serious measure as referendum. A little later, the president's team started retreating on all fronts.

At the meeting of the Constitutional Commission, which took place later on Tuesday [9 February], Boris Yeltsin invited Ruslan Khasbulatov and Valeriy Zorkin to hold a tripartite meeting. He said that he was not prejudiced against the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. I am ready to once again hold out my hand to him, the president remarked. At the same time, Boris Yeltsin suggested that 1993 be declared a year of moratorium on all political fights and major political events.

This face-saving attempt cannot, however, conceal the main point —to all appearances, there will be no referendum. The president found himself in a political vacuum, because not only legislative and judicial powers, but many leaders of executive structures came out against him as well. In the final analysis, it was the position of the former autonomies, which have now become a formidable force, that has decided everything. It has become clear that the president cannot oppose it any longer.

[Announcer] While the issue of the future of the referendum was being debated by important gatherings, a sitting of the government commission for preparing the all-Russian referendum took place in Moscow; it was chaired by First Deputy Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko.

Yeltsin Addresses Constitutional Commission

LD0902173493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Speech by President Boris Yeltsin at a Constitutional Commission session in Moscow on 9 February—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed participants in the sitting, and members of the Constitutional Commission. Today we are discussing the question which is directly connected with preparations for the all-Russian referendum on 11 April. The question is of fundamental importance, especially if we are to consider that it will not be easy to carry out a referendum under the present conditions. Today, people are only prepared to go to the polls if really important questions are to be decided. The fact that, according to preliminary estimates, 20 billion rubles [R]—a very substantial sum for our budget—will be needed to conduct a referendum, is also very important. But the weakness of statehood and constant conflicts between the branches of power have cost Russia much more than R20 billion, or whatever.

I am grateful to the citizens of Russia who, with all the difficulties of today's life, have rejected struggle and armed confrontation. I am grateful to the citizens of Russia for their adherence to peaceful, democratic methods, which include referendums and elections.

The question today is about the fate of the reforms: Should we carry them through or go into reverse. The emergence of such a problem is quite natural for a society in its transitional state. But under our conditions this problem has developed into some ugly form, which has demonstrated itself first of all in a conflict between two powers: The executive—that is, the president and his representatives, and the Congress and the Supreme Soviet. This conflict has threatened the very foundations of statehood, and this threat should be removed.

I am convinced that the republics, oblasts and all citizens of Russia have an interest in this. I consider that arguments saying that some sort of abstract lifeless fundamentals of a constitution should be put forward in the referendum are inappropriate. If we want Russia to receive a really operative and working constitution and not an empty shell then it is its fundamental principles in the first place which should be working, and this should be not at some time in the distant future but right now, helping to resolve Russia's very acute problems.

The referendum has sense if it halts the creeping restoration of the past, and the personal and the much more dangerous collegial conflicts. The referendum has sense if it confirms once and for all the principle of the division of powers. If the state organs cannot do this themselves, we are obliged to appeal to the people.

Russia as a federation is in a transitional state. Interrelations within it have not yet settled. The super centralization whereby Moscow dictated its will to the republics and the regions is still displaying great inertia. On the other hand, certain localities are tempted to reject, in principle, vertically structured relations between authorities. Things have gone so far that some soviets have made decisions on suspending different laws, decrees and resolutions on their territories.

The referendum makes sense if it helps to get moving the problem of implementing the Federation Treaty, the problem of decentralization and transfer of considerable powers to the regions while ensuring firm guarantees of Russia's integrity.

At the same time the referendum is not a goal in itself. If a truly effective and reliable way of solving problems is found—by any branch of authority or the constitutional commission—the problems which Russian statehood is facing—it would be unreasonable, of course, to reject these new proposals, and in this case one could forego the referendum. In other words, I for one am ready for this dialogue and a search for such solutions.

What is needed today is not playing on nerves but constructive work. I have said that I am ready for dialogue and the elaboration of various options for action. I reject only inaction and attempts once again to drive acute problems deeper.

Unfortunately, a widespread propaganda campaign has unfolded in Russia about the referendum. Not a few excesses and even acts of provocation are permitted. Politicization surrounding the referendum is ever more increasing, and we are already forgetting the main thing—our economic difficulties, and the crisis we are experiencing today, which is the prime concern of all Russians.

This highly acute reaction testifies to the fact that Russia's main political nerve has been touched. Reproaches are constantly heard of attacks of one kind or another, and even obstruction, to which the Supreme Soviet and the Congress are subjected. I state with responsibility that after the agreement during the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, there has been not a single such action on the part of the president. There has been none from the government, either. The executive authority rigorously observes decisions of the Congress on strengthening the constitutional structure in Russia.

Henceforth, I will not descend to the level of insults and abuse, especially aimed at other branches of authority and officials.

Propaganda games are discrediting the December agreement between the representative and executive powers. They are discrediting the most difficult talks that were held during the Congress by the president, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, the chairman of the Constitutional Court, and people's deputies. Who needs to break the fine thread that is currently holding together the stability of the country? For what purpose are these efforts being made at such a difficult time for Russia? No matter what reason, they are not being made for the sake of Russia or the strengthening of its statehood, nor are they for the sake of resolving the crisis of power, and most importantly, they are not being made in order to facilitate the course of the transformations.

Just now we are constantly hearing that the April referendum is the work of certain ultraradicals who have forced the president, the chairman and the Congress, to accept such a scenario. I would like to make it clear: Yes, at the seventh Congress I did indeed put forward a proposal to hold a referendum, but only on the Congress. The initiative on holding a referendum about constitutional principles does not come from me. It was discussed by a commission, the Conciliation Commission of the Congress, and it was this commission that actually adopted the decision. The decision was then adopted at the Congress. And, if you remember, the Congress adopted the decision on this as early as its first session—on the holding of a referendum on the principles of the Constitution. It is true that no time period was indicated then, but such a decision was made by the Congress. And no one has revoked it.

The idea of holding an April referendum occurred during the work of the Conciliation Commission, and then the version that is currently under discussion emerged. While holding the Conciliation Commission and the resolution of the seventh Congress on stabilizing the constitutional system in respect, I believe that we share a duty to approach that system in the most responsible way possible, and that includes the issue of a referendem if no more effective solution is found. The Supreme Soviet—not its presidium but the Supreme Soviet itself—must approve the questions it wishes to put to the referendum. The draft adopted by the Supreme Soviet Presidium is, I personally believe, unacceptable in terms of the questions selected, and not only because it violates procedure. It is a question programed to undermine the referendum primarily because it distracts people from tackling the most pressing problems of our statehood. It is difficult even to count the provisions enshrined in these formulations; they run into dozens. And a good many of them are such obvious things: That the Constitution is the supreme law of the country, for example. That's for children in their first year at school.

For my part I wish to say that literally in the next few days, in the name of the president, proposals will be presented which, if examined by the Supreme Soviet, and in keeping with the resolution of the Congress, and if they are not adopted by the Supreme Soviet, will stand as an alternative. This will be three or four questions, very brief, each question being three or four lines, questions which are very graphic, precise and necessary for people, with the answer yes or no.

And now about something else. Of late, the question of early elections of the president and corps of deputies has often been raised. The thesis of reelections no later than the spring of 1994 simultaneously of the president and the people's deputies has been entered in the draft question. And incidentally, a propos of this, already criticism of the president is being aired, that he is afraid of early elections.

My opinion is as follows: I am in favor of early elections, but so as to observe the principle of equal conditions—with equal reduction of the terms of office by approximately one year. Not five, but four years for deputies' powers. Not five, but four years for presidential powers. Then the early elections of the corps of deputies would be in the spring of 1994, and the early elections of the president in the Spring of 1995.

It is logical. I consider it unacceptable to hold the elections simultaneously, one reason being that it is necessary at all costs to preserve the continuity and smoothness of the transfer of power to the new generation of politicians, and that means also stability in the country. And not suddenly from one power to another power, at all levels.

Finally, I would like to say the following: All last year predictions were being made that Russia would be drawn into a catastrophe following any step—important or minor—taken by the authorities. None of these predictions have come true. Now it is the referendum that is being perceived as the main danger for Russia. Let us

calm down, let us get rid of the psychology of catastrophe, of which we are all so tired. Let us discuss calmly the principles and questions of the referendum. If in the meantime the Conciliatory Commission is convened... [changes thought] incidentally, I am all in favor of it meeting again, I am the initiator of this. I propose participants of the Conciliatory Commission be the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, the chair of the Constitutional Court, the government, and members of the Conciliatory Commission. They should convene again and discuss this question. There is no other more effective form of resolving this conflict.

I am personally prepared once again, for the third, fourth time to extend the hand of consensus, to make a step forward, in order to do away with the conflict. It is not agreeable for the Russian people to observe authorities fighting here in Moscow over whose power is superior. This is insulting for the citizens of the Russian Federation. An end should be put to this, surely, and I want to propose to both Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov and Valeriy Dmitriyevich Zorkin: The three of us should get together and sit down for a good talk. Personally, I have no prejudices whatsoever. Even better, we should sit down in front of television cameras and tell all the Russian people: We have no contradictions, there are no contradictions between us. We have no contradictions between us. Let us declare 1993 a year of moratoriums on all political fights, and on all other major political measures, and let us deal basically with the economy. That is the main thing that may destroy us unless we really handle it properly.

Thank you.

Seeks End to 'Political Fracas'

OW0902143593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin urged the parliament's chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and chairman of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin to meet within the framework of the conciliatory commission of the 7th congress of people's deputies, or, better still, in front of TV cameras, and tell the Russian people that they had no disagreements. "The year 1993 must become a year of moratorium on 'political fracas', and of strenuous work on the economic issues." Boris Yeltsin made such a proposal in his introductory speech on Tuesday, during the opening of the plenary meeting of the Constitutional Commission. "I'm ready to shake hands with my political opponents and make a step towards preventing conflicts," he said. He also urged his opponents to help rid society of the mentality of what he called catastrophism. He said he accepted the idea of early parliamentary and presidential elections on the condition that the term of their powers be cut down by 12 months and that the parliamentary elections be held in the spring of 1994 and presidential elections - in the spring of 1995. He also said that the agreements reached during the 7th congress of people's deputies were violated through no fault of the executive authority. "Anyway, I will not indulge in offending or humiliating my political opponents," he said.

Calls For Early Elections

LD0902145293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1420 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Addressing today's Constitutional Commission meeting, President Boris Yeltsin called for early elections, adding, however, the following: "Observing the principle of equal opportunities—with equal reduction of the terms of office, for instance by one year. Not five, but four years for the body of deputies. Not five, but four years for the president. Then the early elections of the body of deputies in the spring of 1994 and the early presidential elections in the spring of 1995."

'Ready for Dialogue'

LD0902151493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1428 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced today that he is willing to work in concert with other branches of state power to find a solution to the issues set out in the 11 April referendum.

He told a meeting of the Constitutional Commission that there is good reason to hold a referendum if it will halt the creeping restoration of the past, if it will establish once and for all how power is to be divided, and if it will help achieve progress in implementing the Federal Treaty and resolving the issue of decentralization. "At the same time," he stressed, "the referendum is not an aim in itself. If a truly effective and reliable way can be found to resolve the problems facing Russian statehood, then it would be foolish to decline proposals leading to it. I am personally ready for dialogue and to seek out such proposals."

The president proposed to Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin "that the three of us meet, preferably in front of the TV cameras, and tell all the people that there are no differences between us." [passage omitted]

Kostikov Explains Yeltsin's Position

LD0902160993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—At a session of the Constitutional Commission in the Kremlin today, Boris

Yeltsin made an important political statement on the Russian president's position on the referendum issue.

The president, according to an announcement by his Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, stated that the need to hold a referendum as a peaceful and democratic method of resolving radical questions in the life of the country had come about due to the danger hanging over the fate of the reforms as a result of the deepening conflict between the executive and representative powers.

The danger of the past being restored, in the form of the omnipotence of the soviets, has emerged. Moreover, this conflict, the president stressed, has begun to threaten the very foundations of Russian statehood.

In this situation the referendum makes sense if it once and for all affirms the principle of division of powers. "If the state bodies themselves are not managing to do this," the president said, "we are obliged to appeal to the people."

According to Boris Yeltsin, the referendum could speed up the problems regarding the implementation of the Federation Treaty, including the problem of decentralization, backed by firm guarantees of preserving the integrity of Russia. [sentence as received] The antireferendum campaign deployed by certain quarters and the desire to discredit the December agreement between the legislative and representative powers testify to the fact that there are forces in the country that are unwilling to see Russian statehood strengthened and the crisis of authority overcome. The referendum questions offered by the Supreme Soviet Presidium are programming, in fact, the breakdown of this consultation with the people. "Should the Supreme Soviet fail to come up with clear-cut questions for the referendum which are really important for the life of the country and understandable by the people, then the president will be forced to provide his own alternative wording," Boris Yeltsin stated. At the same time, the president made it clear that he would not rigidly insist on holding the referendum if the conciliatory commission created during the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies manages to offer a fairly effective way of overcoming the crisis of power. Boris Yeltsin is ready to initiate the calling of this commission.

Shakhray Lauds Yeltsin Address

OW0902202693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1956 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Following the session of the Constitutional Commission on Tuesday [9 February] in the Kremlin, Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray declared to an INTERFAX correspondent that a referendum or any other way to overcome conflict between different branches of power proposed by President is primarily related to progress of economic reforms. He called a possible referendum or any way to cooperation with the Russian Supreme Soviet by means of conciliatory commission "an essential anti-inflation measure" needed in the country today.

Clarifying this definition, Shakhray mentioned the relative "cheapness" of a referendum if it actually takes place. Experts determined that its preliminary cost constitutes 20 billion rubles and, according to Shakhray, expenditures inflicted by competitiveness of executive and legislative powers to Russia's economy constitute 3.5 trillion rubles. The Vice Premier believes that these funds have been spent on "competition" of authorities in generosity to grant all kinds of donations and compensations. [sentence as received]

The Vice Premier highly appreciated the readiness of the President to cooperate with parliament and the Congress of People's Deputies, which he declared addressing a session of the Constitutional Commission. According to Shakhray, the President has placed important accents and made it clear that a society which is going to democracy cannot fear a referendum. Shakhray underlined That there was one more important phrase in Yeltsin's appearance when he refuted the thesis of his political opponents that he allegedly fears premature elections.

Speaking about his assessment of Yeltsin's appearance, the Vice Premier said that President "preserves positive attitude towards a referendum," but simultaneously he strives for a wide search of forms of consent with his opponents in the interests of Russia and reforms.

Zorkin Calls Referendum 'Threat' to Constitutional Order

OW0902155893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1541 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Valeriy Zorkin, Chairman of Russia's Constitutional Court has called on the President, the Presidium of the Russian Parliament, and the Speaker to postpone the referendum on the fundamentals of the new Constitution because of the deteriorating political and economic situation in the country, the Constitutional Court press service has reported. The referendum, scheduled by a decision made at the Seventh Congress of Russia's People's Deputies for April 11, "in this context is a threat to the constitutional order in Russia".

The Court Chairman called on Boris Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov to convene a conciliatory commission which would work out a draft agreement guaranteeing stability of the constitutional order, effectiveness of the state power, implementation of reform, and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation.

Zorkin suggested that the President "initiate a new treaty and act as a guarantor of peace and national accord".

Opposes 'Accelerated' Adoption of Constitution

LD0902220393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2124 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—"I am not sure that the adoption of a new constitution should be accelerated artificially," as the constitution now in force (in the wording of April 21, 1992, including the Declaration of Human Rights and a Citizen, and the principle of the division of authorities—Valery Zorkin) is not so bad," [no opening quotation marks as received] chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Valery Zorkin, said in an interview published the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA newspaper dated February 10, 1993.

"It seems to me we should use not Hitler's and Pinochet's 'chance' but that of Russian Roosevelt and Russian De Gaulle," [as received] Valery Zorkin stated. He proposes not to break up the "established unsteady accord" in Russia, but "give up the referendum" and put a moratorium on amending the constitution (in the wording of April 1992)."

"Do not touch the presidential republic and you will not be touched either," the chairman of the Constitutional Court of Russia says. "You will remain in your chairs for all term of office, provided you do not break up and hack anything," he points out.

The only thing which "does not suit us in the latest version of the present constitution" is the absence of a "normal two-chamber parliament. But the congress has already come to the same conclusion," Valery Zorkin stressed. According to him, "we are finding ourselves now in such a boiler that it is not the moment for adopting a constitution in general." It is necessary first to "get out of the cycle of catastrophes" and overcome the collapse of Russia, the chairman of the Constitutional Court of Russia believes.

In reply to a question about the possibility of the "pre-term election", Valery Zorkin proposed first to work out and adopt a new electoral law. If an election is held in accordance with the law now in force, this will lead us to the "repetition of what already took place in the past," Valery Zorkin pointed out.

Court Members Back Zorkin's Plan

OW0902204993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1959 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Constitutional Court Member Ernst Ametistov said "the change in the Constitutional Court's stance on the referendum (was) somewhat unexpected." He discussed, in an interview with INTERFAX, the suggestion Valeriy Zorkin advanced Tuesday [9 February] on suspending the referendum and early elections. However, Ametistov acknowledged that the majority of the Constitutional Court members support the chairman's stance.

Ametistov pointed out that he was one of the initiators of the Constitutional Court's new role in the political process as a mediator in the gridlocked situation which developed at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. The first point in the agreement reached at the Congress had been on establishing a referendum on the basis of the new Constitution, said the judge. "Therefore, I feel that the one-sided change in such a position does not conform to the letter and spirit of the agreement," said Ametistov.

"Moreover, since the other points of the agreement cannot be separated, a difficult situation arose because one of the points of the agreement, on the procedures for electing a prime minister, has already been fulfilled by the president," added the Constitutional Court member.

He expressed his opinion that if, according to the proposal Yeltsin made Tuesday at the Constitutional Commission session, the president, the Constitutional Court chairman, and the parliamentary speaker could manage to adopt a joint alternative to the referendum, "then the situation will not cause objection." Ametistov stressed, "the agreement will have been changed, but nonetheless, it will be an agreement."

Salvation Front Leader Opposes Referendum Moratorium

OW0902153893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy Ilya Konstantinov, co-chairman of National Salvation Front (opposition to Russian President), believes that one should not postpone the referendum and elections for a year. "It is necessary to conduct a referendum so that our citizens will have a possibility to demonstrate their attitude to the draft Constitution put forward for the referendum and to the authorities," Konstantinov told INTERFAX. He made his comments on messages stating the intention of Chairman of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin to propose a moratorium on the referendum and premature elections of executive and legislative powers.

According to Konstantinov, it is useless for the chairman of Constitutional Court "to take over the solution of issues unusual for the court because these are purely political functions." If we follow the manner of behavior of the chairman of Constitutional court then, the opposition leader thinks, the court will become a supreme political authority in Russian Federation. In Konstantinov's opinion, this violates the principle of division of powers and does not correspond to the decree on the Constitutional Court and to the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Stankevich Comments on Referendum

OW0902203393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1956 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin's readiness to negotiate with Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin is obvious, said presidential advisor Sergey Stankevich in an interview with INTERFAX Tuesday [9 February]. The president has come forth as a peacemaker in the drawn out conflict between the two branches of power, he said in reference to Yeltsin's appearance at a session of the Constitutional Commission.

The idea of the referendum has not been withdrawn, stressed the advisor, although the referendum should be held only if no other "more fitting" means of solving the problem are found.

Among the "most valuable" proposals offered during the discussion at the Constitutional Commission session, Stankevich cited the suggestion that if the issue goes all the way to a referendum, they should coordinate an "interpretation" of possible outcomes of the plebiscite.

"Curious" was how Stankevich described Constitutional Commission Secretary Oleg Rumyantsev's idea to replace the referendum with a new constitutional agreement. Such an agreement would regulate relations between legislative, executive, and judicial powers on a federal level. The agreement could be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a "Congress of People's Deputies convened specially for this (occasion)." The proposal has "significant potential for overcoming the crisis in federal powers," the presidential advisor believes.

Stankevich said that Yeltsin's proposal to cut the terms of power of both people's deputies and the head of state by one year, "met with support" from participants in the discussion and added that to this end "we could hold early elections." However, stressed the advisor, the elections could not be conducted simultaneously, for that would destabilize the country's political situation. "The U.S. election campaign prevents the country's president from conducting normal work for almost a year. Such an approach is unacceptable to us," he said.

According to Stankevich's assessment, the commission session laid a foundation for serious discussion. The next step, he feels, should be the Supreme Soviet's response to the proposals voiced Tuesday in the Kremlin.

New 10-Point Constitutional Covenant Mooted

MK1002090393 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 7, 14 Feb 93 (Signed to Press 9 Feb 93) p 9

[Vladimir Orlov article: "Anti-April Theses. Ten Points That Could Preserve Civil Peace"]

[Text] The leaders of all three branches of power are currently working intensively to find a way out of the constitutional impasse.

In view of the sensitive nature of their mission, the working parties and expert groups hold their consultations only behind closed doors. But in the course of these secret consultations it is possible to achieve the utmost frankness and grope toward mutually acceptable solutions.

According to reports from well-informed sources, the Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Court have almost finished formulating one possible way of unraveling the knot tied in December.

It is proposed that the president, the speaker of parliament, and the chairman of the Constitutional Court will sign a new constitutional covenant [soglasheniye] in the next few days. It is possible that the final text will be approved at meetings of the same commission that exercised conciliation functions in December. The idea that this commission would become a "permanent conciliatory body" was proposed back then at the Congress.

Under the draft new constitutional covenant, the following steps would be taken: **1. The December agreement becomes invalid. 2. The referendum, in any form, is canceled. 3. A moratorium is imposed on early elections at any level for the current year (or at least for the next few months). 4. The adoption of a new constitution is postponed. 5. Support is expressed for the convocation of an extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies, to last not more than two days. The agenda consists of two items: 1) to deem the December constitutional covenant no longer valid, to confirm the new constitutional covenant, and to cancel the referendum; 2) to adopt amendments to the existing Constitution, to the effect that the highest and sole legislative and administrative [rasporyaditelnyy] organ of power in Russia is the Supreme Soviet. 6. Self-dissolution of the Congress. 7. A moratorium is imposed on the adoption of amendments to the existing constitution, with the exception of the above-mentioned. 8. The date of new general elections is announced. "General" means simultaneous elections of the president, the Supreme Soviet, organs of power in the regions, and possibly also a constitutional assembly. The word "early" is not used, although basically this does mean early elections. The main tactical struggle is expected to occur over the date of the new elections, which the authors of the draft do not stipulate. Difficulties arise because parliament's powers expire in spring 1995, whereas the president's powers expire only in June 1996. There are two possible dates: a) spring-summer 1994 (the date supported by most parliamentary factions and political parties and movements); b) no earlier than late fall 1994 (which is advocated by certain deputies who are unwilling to give up their posts sooner than necessary. Certain representatives of presidential structures also are inclined unofficially to take this view). 9. A new constitution is adopted by a new Supreme Soviet elected on the basis of party lists, or by the Constitutional Assembly. In the latter case, the**

assembly's members would be elected in the general elections. The advantage of this option is that it would consist of "pure citizens," whose sole function would be conscientiously to adopt a new Fundamental Law. They would make a commitment, for a period of five years, not to run as candidates for any organs of power whatever. On the other hand, there are strong objections that by the end of next year the situation will have changed, so that it will not be necessary to convene an assembly. 10. To act as a conciliatory body until the next elections, a permanent "roundtable" of the three branches of power, political parties and movements, and representatives of Russia's regions is convened. In the conciliatory process, special emphasis is placed on the role of the regions.

In the view of the draft's authors, this is the only approach that will make it possible to stop politicking and set about the real stabilization of the constitutional system, which was the point of the December covenant. Naturally, adjustments are possible. But the clause on canceling the referendum is a key point and cannot be dropped.

Judging by recent public statements by Ruslan Khasbulatov and Valeriy Zorkin, they are prepared to support the "10-point plan" in one form or another.

Moreover, the speaker himself initiated a proposal for early elections, and the adjustment to dates is hardly likely to worry him. "Support a new constitution, but do not rush it through"—those were his words too.

Russian Unity is also likely to support the stabilization plan both in general terms and in its particulars. It is wholly in accordance with the values and interests of the deputies belonging to that bloc. The Civic Union leadership has adopted a similar stance.

Democratic Russia is against it. Although its isolation in the party political arena is already causing some of the "Demross" supporters to go along with the idea of looking for compromise solutions.

As for Valeriy Zorkin's position, he has stated openly that he is opposed to the referendum. In a recent interview he also put forward a proposal to postpone the adoption of a new constitution and "declare a moratorium on changes to the existing Constitution," which coincides almost word for word with the stabilization plan. Admittedly the Constitutional Court chairman proposed that the Congress retain its powers for at least another year. But that is a kind of insurance policy in case the Congress is "disbanded." Zorkin is hardly likely to object to self-dissolution by the Congress.

The "main peacemaker" finds himself in an ambivalent position. Although he is by conviction a supporter of a strong presidential republic and the speediest adoption of the "Rumyantsev" constitution, he is obliged, for the time being, to "forget" his own personal sympathies. Having secured the December Yeltsin- Khasbulatov accord, Zorkin is today having to review that same accord. Obviously this is a vulnerable position to be in.

But it should be borne in mind that the Constitutional Court chairman, by virtue of his position, has access to the innermost circles of both Khasbulatov's and Yeltsin's teams. And therefore he probably has a better idea than anyone of the nature of the present moment.

Furthermore, he has spent the whole of the past week in consultations with the leaders of a diverse range of parties and movements and has seen over 30 governors....

Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Denies 'Excessive Tutelage' by Yeltsin

OW0902145393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has categorically denied recent reports of excessive tutelage of the government by President Boris Yeltsin which "hinder the cabinet from working productively." In a Tuesday [9 February] interview with Interfax correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov, the prime minister said: "I don't know what might have been the basis for such a report, but I want to say with full responsibility that I, as head of the government, am thankful to the president for having allowed us to work with all possible freedom."

Recognizing that he once feared firm presidential control over his every step, Chernomyrdin observed that now, after two months of work as prime minister, he is convinced that the president trusts him implicitly "without interference in the operation of the government."

The premier considers it natural and entirely normal that the president sometimes offers criticism. "It is also normal that essential points arise which I have to clarify with the president. I don't think that is anything to be ashamed of. I don't consider it interference in the work of the government," said Chernomyrdin.

According to the prime minister, the real reason for the spreading of such rumors is that efforts are being made "to drive a wedge between the president and the prime minister." "People even try to conclude from separate statements that I have made," continued Chernomyrdin, "that the president and I have different approaches to solving certain important problems or to personnel." "I again want to emphasize that I am able to work freely and easily with the president, and that there is no hindrance or tying of hands by the president," stressed the premier.

The full interview with Chernomyrdin will be published in a coming issue of Interfax's Presidential Bulletin.

Yeltsin Reorganizes, Strengthens Apparatus

MK0902115893 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Feb 93 p 2

[Veronika Kutsyllo article: "President's Administration Gets New Powers"]

[Text] On 8 February Boris Yeltsin signed an edict "On Improving the System of Ensuring the Operation of Federal Executive Bodies." The new leaders of the president's administration managed to persuade Boris Yeltsin of the need to restructure it and "outsmart" Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, securing for themselves the right to coordinate the activities of the government apparatus.

The edict provides for the creation of a Presidential Council whose members will not be paid for their work (while all the present advisers will lose their apparatuses), a Council of Administration Chiefs (in parallel with the Council of the Heads of the Republics), and an Expert Council. Under new regulations enacted by the edict, all documents must be endorsed by Sergey Filatov before they are sent to the president for signature. The administration is charged with preparing proposals for the president on fundamental foreign and domestic policy matters, providing Boris Yeltsin with information and analytical materials, conducting cadre policy in federal and regional executive bodies, and overseeing the activities of those bodies.

Under the 8 February edict, government apparatus chief Vladimir Kvasov will become the ex-officio deputy chief of the president's apparatus. Therefore Sergey Filatov will now be able to coordinate the activities of the government apparatus.

In addition to Kvasov, Filatov will have another three deputies, two of whom—Vyacheslav Volkov and Andrey Voykov—have already been appointed. It is expected that Filatov's third deputy will be Vladimir Podoprigora, who currently heads the Russian Supreme Soviet's committee on interrepublican relations, regional policy, and cooperation.

Observers point out that the 8 February edict has ended the bureaucratic intrigues that recently unfolded in the upper reaches of the executive branch. The first step toward reorganizing the presidential administration's structure was the 5 February edict "On Representatives of the Russian Federation President in the Krays, Oblasts, Autonomous Oblasts, Autonomous Okrugs, and the Cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg," that provided for the creation within the president's apparatus of a new subdivision—the presidential administration directorate for working with the territories, the president's representatives, and relations with the Russian Supreme Soviet. KOMMERSANT-DAILY analysts believe the 5 February edict was brought about by the attempts of the Supreme Soviet and the local soviets not only to limit the powers of the presidential representatives, but also to call into question the constitutionality of the very institution of representatives. Ruslan Khasbulatov's statement on 8 February at a seminar of leaders of soviets at all levels, calling for an end to financial support for the president's representatives, shows that this edict by Boris Yeltsin was timely.

A day prior to approving the edict on the president's representatives, Boris Yeltsin, on the initiative of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, signed a directive on the reorganization of the government apparatus making it completely independent of the presidential apparatus. On the following day, however, Sergey Filatov, chief of the president's apparatus, succeeded in convincing Yeltsin that the government's claims to full independence were unreasonable. The president altered the directive, and also rejected a suggestion from the chairman of the Council of Ministers that part of the State Legal Administration and the President's Archives be transferred to the government apparatus. KOMMERSANT- DAILY experts suppose that the decision of Boris Yeltsin—who, being a former party functionary, is very well aware of the important role the apparatus plays in behind-the-scenes political battles—could have been influenced by the intention to retain control over the apparatus of the Council of Ministers chairman, given the complicated relationship that exists today between the branches of power. In the stand-off with parliament, this institution will apparently not be superfluous for the president. Furthermore, it will prevent Viktor Chernomyrdin, a reputed hard- liner, from placing the apparatus, under certain conditions, at the service of the president's opponents.

Chernomyrdin Signs Government Restructuring Decree

LD0902173293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1552 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a decree entitled "On the apparatus of the Council of Ministers" to create several new structural subdivisions and specify the functions of a number of former sectors of the government's apparatus.

"The new structure of the government apparatus is being created with the purpose of making the apparatus more dynamic, efficient, and businesslike. It will not be changed to any considerable extent compared to the previous structure," Vladimir Kvasov, head of the Russian Council of Ministers apparatus, told ITAR-TASS.

In reorganizing the government apparatus, "we are not trying to 'purge' it or, to the contrary, to sharply increase the number of staff," Vladimir Kvasov stressed. He noted that none of the areas of work are being abolished and that a number of new services are being organized.

A department has been set up to interact with the Supreme Soviet and public organizations. Vladimir Kvasov said that this department "should follow up all parliamentary resolutions and decrees which have something to do with the government; will prepare draft laws for tabling them at parliamentary hearings according to the procedure; and will fulfill a number of other functions, including liaison with parties, public movements, and organizations." A juridical department will also appear in this structure to provide legal backing for documents prepared by the government.

Vladimir Kvasov also said that a number of other departments are being set up: an economic department, a department to ensure the activity of administrative bodies (it will supervise economic issues dealt with by the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and the Security Ministry, as well as questions of mobilization), a department for emergency situations and state reserves, an investments department, a department of construction and housing and community services, a department for ensuring logistic and technical support for government work, a department for controlling the implementation of government decisions, and other departments.

Republican Party Told To Disband Paramilitary Arm

OW0902210893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1957 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Prosecutor General's Office has sent a letter to the central council of the National Republican Party of Russia demanding that it disband the paramilitary Russian National Legion it has formed.

The legion's formation, the office says, goes beyond the party's objectives as recorded in its charter and is a flagrant violation of the Law on Public Associations and the Russian President's decrees on measures to consolidate the country's constitutional system and tighten control of public organizations, which ban the formation of paramilitary detachments.

Nor, the office says, are the legion's attempts to obtain weapons and ammunition and its recruitment of volunteers for taking part in hostilities abroad compatible with Russia's commitments under international law, which, in case of war between two nations, prohibits the formation of armed detachments and recruitment of volunteers for either of the belligerents on the territory of a third country.

The Prosecutor General's Office demands that the National Republican Party immediately dissolve its illegal paramilitary groups and recall their members from armed conflict zones.

Unless the party complies with these demands, it can be abolished and its property nationalized, the office says.

Justice Ministry To Register 'Civic Union'

OW0902212593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [9 February], representatives of the Civic Union received their official registration certificate at Russia's Ministry of Justice. In characterizing the fact of registration, Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Civic Union's executive committee, said he views it as an indication that the Civic Union is passing over to a new stage of its integration. In his words, the registration would enable the Civic Union to "take more active steps for improving the situation in the country."

Mr. Lipitskiy expressed doubt that a national referendum in April would stabilize the situation. "I am most enthusiastic about the referendum, should it be staged in connection with the country's new Constitution," he said in an interview for INTERFAX. "Today, this issue, however, seems to be in the shadow, giving way to a contention as to who is more trusted by the people."

The chairman of the Civic Union's executive committee says he is convinced that there is no conflict, as such, between the power's two branches. "We are only dealing with a personality conflict which involves a fairly small number of people," Mr. Lipitskiy observed, "whose actions are often motivated by the considerations far from state interests."

Sokolov Elected Chairman of House Republic Chamber

LD1002094993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0939 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Veniamin Sokolov, a member of the opposition parliamentary group "Rossiya" headed by Sergey Baburin, was elected chairman of the House of the Republic of the Russian Parliament. A majority of the house members voted for him on Wednesday.

He replaced Nikolay Ryabov who became deputy parliament speaker.

Sokolov, born in 1935, was second secretary of the former Soviet Communist Party regional committee in Krasnoyarsk before becoming a lawmaker. He worked in the parliamentary commission on budget, plans, taxes and prices.

Sokolov is a graduate of the Moscow Physical and Technical Institute and Doctor of Sciences.

Economic Issues

Fedorov Says Savings Bank To Increase Interest Rates

OW0902172693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interest rates in the Savings Bank will be increased shortly, Russia's Vice-Premier Boris Fedorov told INTERFAX. He said that a decision to this effect had been made and "technical matters were being ironed out". Interest rates on fixed-term deposits in the Savings Bank would be as high as 120 to 130 percent.

He also spoke of the need to increase "to at least the market level" the discount rate on credits given by the Central Bank to merchant banks. At present the annual rate is 80 percent while the market rate ranges from 130 to 140 percent. This decision "must be made pretty soon if any kind of stabilization is to be achieved".

The Deputy Premier also thinks that non-resident citizens of Russia must have a right to conduct transactions in the international currency market. This issue is under discussion and a decision will probably be included by the Cabinet in a currency regulation package.

Fedorov said that this step would contribute to expanding the currency market and consolidating the ruble.

Chernomyrdin Meets With Commodity Producers' Body

PM1002124393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Commodity Producers Need Support"]

[Text] A new public organization—the Council of the Federation of Commodity Producers [CFCP]—will be registered today at the Russian Federation Justice Ministry.

A few days ago representatives of the CFCP met with Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers. The meeting, during which they examined problems pertaining to relations between enterprises and the state during the formation of market relations, lasted two hours. Confirming the government's intention of helping state commodity producers, the head of Cabinet emphasized that funds will be allocated not to individual sectors or even enterprises, but for specific projects and the production of definite output. Tough state control over the expenditure of financial aid is also envisaged.

Touching on the subject of reform in the countryside, Viktor Chernomyrdin gave assurances that agriculture will not be converted to private farming forcibly. However, the government does plan to offer appreciable assistance to peasants wanting to work autonomously.

Viktor Chernomyrdin said that one of the immediate tasks is to protect national commodity producers from competition with foreign commodity producers. In this connection it is, he thinks, necessary to ensure priorities are met in producing output that is competitive on a world level and will cause an influx of hard currency into the country, and also in progressive national technologies (this particularly applies to conversion).

CFCP Chairman Aleksey Shulupov proposed bringing representatives of commodity producers into state structures at all levels—ranging from the government to local administrations. This proposal was accepted by the head of the Council of Ministers.

Aleksandr Zaveryukha Appointed Agriculture Deputy Premier

LD1002120693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1146 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Aleksandr Zaveryukha was appointed by the Russian president deputy prime minister responsible for agriculture, according to the press service of the Russian president.

Zaveryukha was the chairman of the Council of Agricultural Ventures of the Orenburg region and was nominated for the post by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Workers Leaving Military-Industrial Complex

OW0902205693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1959 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In 1992 Russian government allocated credits totalling 67.9 billion rubles to 839 military enterprises for definite conversion programs. These data were presented at a joint session of the Russian committee on defense branches of industry and the leadership of the association of Russian trade unions of defense branches of industry on Tuesday [9 February] in Moscow.

It was noted that 604 programs were transferred to 1993, 400 of which will be completed this year. On agreement with the government, 100 new conversion programs will be started this year; 250 billion rubles are needed to implement this program.

Participants of the session expressed concern due to a reduction of orders for the military-industrial complex in 1992 and financial problems of the branch caused by this fact. In December 1992, the average wage at the enterprises of the military-industrial complex constituted 11,000 rubles, and in the civil branches of the

economy it reached 16,000 rubles. As a result, 410,000 people left factories in the military-industrial complex and 215,000 engineers and technicians left research institutes and design bureaus. Due to the absence of orders 8 enterprises were stopped and 230 are on the brink of stoppage.

State Investment Corporation's Functions Outlined

OW1002112993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The State Investment Corporation, set up after a presidential decree Febrary 5, has been designed to create all institutes necessary to step up investments, Yuriy Petrov, the corporation's president, told the ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA February 10.

Petrov said that although the corporation's primary function would be investments in Russia itself, it would have the opportunity to handle investments abroad as well. In order to protect foreign investment from, above all, risk, 1 billion dollars have been allocated as the corporation's authorised capital. In addition 50 billion dollars and 200 billion rubles are to be set aside from state funds. "We are aware that these are tax payers' funds and that we are bound to return these as soon as ever possible. We will do this by saturating the market with food products and different goods," the corporation's president stated.

Glazyev Explains Foreign Economic Relations Policy

LD0902183393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Russian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev told a news conference today that his ministry had succeeded in forming a mechanism for regulating foreign economic relations of the Russian Federation and he was hopeful that export tariffs will be effective in the next two-three years.

Last year's export tariff amounted to 15 per cent of the customs value of raw materials on average. According to the minister, the export tariff covers exclusively raw materials and its main purpose is to restrain the growth of domestic prices of raw materials and energy resources within the limits of the world prices. The import tariff of 15 per cent will soon be reduced to five per cent in some cases.

The minister called the rouble stabilisation one of the main problems facing the government, which does not propose to change the procedure for mandatory hard currency sales to the government stabilisation fund but intends to toughen control over exporters of strategic commodities.

Trade with Commonwealth country [as received] has been fully switched to principles and standards of international relations but these countries do not yet levy import duties for mutual deliveries. The only exception is the Baltic countries with which talks are underway on granting the most favoured' treatment status.

Rutskoy Faces 'Sharp Criticism' at Agricultural Congress

OW0902180493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy asked delegates at a convention, which opened Tuesday [9 February], of the Association of Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives of Russia (AFACR) to make their wishes commensurate with the state's possibilities. Appearing at the forum, he underwent sharp criticism for Yegor Gaydar's strategies and tactics of agrarian reforms, and proposed that the 10 Trn [trillion] rubles needed by farmers be obtained through a "central policy of reducing waste in agricultural production."

The vice president said that each year Russia wastes $8-12 Bn [billion] in foreign food purchases, thus helping "foreign countries to develop their agricultural production."

President of the association Vladimir Bashmachnikov said that last year the number of farms increased 500

[figure as received—ref one says "private farmers increased by almost four times"], reaching a number of 200,000. He claimed, "The development of farms in Russia is an economically justified idea." Farmers produced 2.2% of all the nation's agricultural products.

Bashmachnikov refuted accusations that "the farm movement is ruining collective and state farms—the main producers of agricultural products in Russia." He feels that existing and new legislative acts must be immediately amended to enforce the right to private ownership of land.

Delegates at the conference spoke out on the need for a compromise to be reached between the legislative and executive powers. Otherwise, one of the delegates said, "together with the nation we will dismiss the two branches of state power and their organs."

Government Decree on Bread Price Regulation Published

PM0902164793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 93 First Edition p 2

[Decree No. 94 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government "On state regulation of prices for bread and bakery products", dated Moscow, 3 February 1993, and signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers]

[Text] In order to stabilize the price level of bread and bakery products and monitor their pricing in line with Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Decree No. 4124-1 "On state regulation of prices for bread and bakery products and measures to form federal and regional grain stocks" dated 17 December 1992, the Russian Federation Council of Ministers decrees:

1. That it be established that bread pricing during the first quarter of 1993 be based on a grain purchasing price for bread production of 12,000 rubles per tonne.

2. That the difference between the actual price of grain purchased for state resources (imported and domestic) with a view to manufacturing flour and the fixed price be made up from federal budget funds.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance is to make provision in the 1993 federal budget for resources that are to be earmarked for the said purpose, and in conjunction with the "Roskhleboprodukt" Federal Contract Corporation it is to determine a procedure for paying flour milling enterprises the difference between actual grain prices paid to the supplier and the fixed price.

3. That it be established that the profitability ceiling for all grain reception, flour milling, and bread baking enterprises, regardless of their organizational and legal setup and their departmental subordination, is to be 15 percent of the product cost price.

4. That the governments of the Russian Federation's constituent republics and the organs of executive power of krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg be instructed to make clear the existing scale of trade markups on bread and bakery products with a view to reducing them.

5. That, with the participation of organs of the statistical service, the "Roskhleboprodukt" Federal Contract Corporation and the Russian Federation Committee for Pricing Policy are to regularly examine the state of supplies of bread and bakery products to the population and the prevailing prices for these items, and are to submit this information to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government on a quarterly basis.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers

International Affairs

START I Opponents To Hold Conference in Mid-Feb

OW0802200493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Ukraine's nuclear status is the best safeguard of peace in Europe" is the motto of a conference to be held in Kiev in mid-February. The organizers, mostly members of nationalist parties and groupings, feel that ratification of START-1 by the Ukrainian Parliament will make the country defenseless vis-a-vis Russia, her eastern neighbor.

The conference is expected to work out a policy document on the need to maintain a nuclear status. The document will be submitted to the country's President and Parliament.

START-1 ratification was at the top of the Parliament's session that ended last week, but most members were not prepared to discuss the issue. Some of them have not had a chance to read the treaty.

Following the session the issue was discussed in parliamentary committees and commissions.

Kravchuk 4-Day Visit to United Kingdom Viewed

Kravchuk Cited on Expectations

LD0802185093 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The official visit to Great Britain by Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, begins tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Will support for economic reforms be discussed during the visit, and what results are expected?

[Begin Kravchuk recording] First we are going to sign a treaty on principles of relations and cooperation between Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and also a treaty between the government of Ukraine and the government of Great Britain on preventing double taxation of incomes. Third, an agreement between the government of Ukraine and the government of Great Britain on mutual assistance and protection of investments. Fourth, an agreement between the government of Ukraine and the government of Great Britain on cooperation in the sphere of education, science and culture, and also an agreement between the government of Ukraine and the government of Great Britain on air services. [end recording]

Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk in particular stressed that in his opinion assistance for the Ukrainian economy should not be conditioned by additional political factors, and should also be given immediately and not when we are already concluding the implementation of our reforms.

Spokesman Outlines Agenda

OW0802210293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 8 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk is coming to Britain on Tuesday [9 February] on an official visit. His press secretary, Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov, told INTERFAX the President will sign with his hosts a treaty on principles for relations and cooperation between the two countries. Other documents will also be signed, such as agreements on the prevention of the dual taxation of incomes, protection of investments, defense cooperation, and air transport between Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Kravchuk is to meet Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister John Major, and he will also take a short trip to Scotland. The Ukrainian delegation will also include Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Economic Relations, Transport, and Finance.

On Monday, Kravchuk told British reporters that foreign financial assistance to Ukraine cannot be linked with any kind of political pressure, and that Ukraine "needs it now, not in any distant future."

UK Envoy Urges Strengthening Ties

LD0902184193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Britain should become a stimulus for further business partnership, according to Simon Hemans, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Great Britain to Ukraine, in an interview for the KYYIVSKYY VISNYK newspaper today. He noted that political relations between the two states are excellent at the moment. It is necessary to strengthen economic relations. The ambassador emphasized that the British government is making its contribution to assisting in the economic transformations in Ukraine via its Knowhow Fund.

President Kravchuk Arrives

LD0902202593 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has arrived in Britain at the start of a four-day visit. British-Ukrainian talks are to be held on Wednesday at the residence of Prime Minister John Major. The outcome of these talks could be the signing of a number of joint political and economic documents. Queen Elizabeth II is

to give a lunch at Buckingham Palace in honor of the guest. The Ukrainian president is to meet British members of Parliament and businessmen and the leaders of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is located in London. Kravchuk also plans to travel to Scotland.

Praises Britain's Ukrainians

LD1002111193 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived in Great Britain on a four-day official visit 9 February. Later that evening he met representatives of local Ukrainian organisations.

Addressing a meeting in London's Chelsea district, the lofty guest expressed gratitude to the British Ukrainian community, which maintains ties with its historical homeland. Kravchuk spoke about the problem of building an independent Ukraine. Concluding his remarks, Kravchuk expressed certainty that links with the diaspora will become stronger and will contribute to the establishment of the Ukrainian state.

British-Ukrainian talks will be held at 10 Downing Street today with Prime Minister John Major; these talks may result in signing a number of joint political and economic documents.

Russian Decision on USSR Property Abroad Criticized

LD0902182793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The press center of the Ukraine Foreign Ministry circulated a statement today in connection with the decree of the president of the Russian Federation on the state property of the former USSR abroad, issued on 8 February, some clauses of which we have reported in a previous bulletin.

The statement notes in particular that any kind of unilateral decision regarding the independent determination of one's status as a successor of the Soviet Union is contrary to the norms of international law, and leads to violation of the rights of other states, which were subjects of the former USSR.

Such actions distort the content of previous accords by which the CIS countries agreed to give the Russian Federation the opportunity to continue the membership of the USSR only in the United Nations Organization. These actions are also incompatible with agreements concluded within the framework of the CIS on issues of dividing all the property of the former Soviet Union abroad.

These decisions also run contrary to accords reached during talks between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on searching for ways regarding mutually acceptable approaches to such an important issue as the debts and assets of the former Soviet Union. Such actions, the statement goes on to say, create difficulties for the development of political dialogue between the two countries in the spirit of good-neighborliness and mutual respect.

Defense Minister Visits Black Sea Fleet Base

LD1002110993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1056 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstyantyn Morozov paid an unexpected visit to Sevastopol, the chief base of the Black Sea Fleet, with a large group of Ukrainian officers.

Morozov is expected to meet the Ukrainian president's representative in Sevastopol Ivan Yermakov, Black Sea Commander Rear Admiral Eduard Baltin, heads of directorates and services of the fleet, as well as to visit the Ukraine's naval institute and one of the vessels of the Black Sea Fleet.

According to informed sources at the Black Sea Fleet headquarters, the Ukrainian minister is on a fact-finding tour and no talks on matters of division of the Black Sea are expected. At the same time observes link Morozov's visit to a Moscow agreement on January 15, 1993, between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk on the need to intensify elaboration of documents on the Black Sea Fleet during the transition period by 1995.

Talks With Romania on FRY Embargo Outlined

AU0802193993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1911 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Odessa ROMPRES, 8/2/1993—Following a Romanian initiative, consultations have taken place in Odessa between delegations of Romania and Ukraine on the issue of observance of the UN sanctions against Yugoslavia.

According to a fax ROMPRES received from the Foreign Ministry of Romania, the agenda of the consultations comprised an exchange of opinions on the recent events when ships under Yugoslav flag breached the embargo on the Danube, examination of possible measures to ensure a stricter control on the Romanian-Ukrainian stretch of the Danube, the role of the international missions of experts to supervise the observance of the UN Security Council's resolutions, and the examination of ways to coordinate the Romanian and Ukrainian efforts to organize traffic on the Danube so as to diminish economic losses generated by the embargo, all the while observing the UN Security Council's resolutions.

Envoy Doubts 'Expediency' of Ottawa Reception for Chornovil

LD0902185193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] It has been learned from well-informed sources that, contrary to world diplomatic practice, Levko Lukyanenko, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Canada and honorary chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party, has placed in doubt the expediency of an official reception for Vyacheslav Chornovil, deputy chairman of a standing commission of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, at the Ukraine Embassy in Ottawa.

The visit of Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka, to the United States and Canada, is scheduled to take place from 23 February to 10 March. Vyacheslav Chornovil is planning to acquaint influential U.S. and Canadian circles with the socio-political situation in Ukraine, and in particular to explain to them the positions of the democratic forces on the issue of Ukraine's status as a nuclear state. In particular, Vyacheslav Chornovil is to come to Canada at the invitation of one of the bodies of its parliament.

Technical Information Destined for Israel Uncovered

LD1002102193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Employees of the Security Service of Ukraine have recorded cases of technical and commercial information being assembled by inhabitants of our Republic and other countries. A group of citizens who had intended to take documentation of test samples, a flaw detector, and a casting centrifugal machine to Israel have been detained at the Dnepropetrovsk customs house.

European Council Official on Membership for Kiev

OW1002112693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Hans-Peter Furrer, the director of the European Council's Political Affairs Secretariat, told a Kiev press conference Tuesday [9 February] that Ukraine's internal and external policies must correspond with European standards if the republic is to become a member of the European Council itself.

Furrer announced that the Council's delegation had arrived in Kiev in order to make a thorough analysis of the republic's legislation. The first draft Ukrainian constitution has already been approved in principle by a European Community commission.

Ukraine's first deputy speaker Vasiliy Durdynets said that the new draft constitiution had already been prepared and would be submitted to Strasbourg very shortly for expert opinion.

Hans-Peter Furrer considered that Ukraine should join some of the European Community's conventions, especially the ones on human rights and culture. Ukrainian representatives said that the republic was ready to sign these documents.

Parliament Chairman Congratulates Moldovan Counterpart

AU1002084893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Feb 93 p 1

[Letter from Ivan Plyushch, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council, to Petru Lucinschi, chairman of the parliament of the Moldovan Republic, dated Kiev 5 February]

[Text] To His Excellency Mr. Petru Lucinschi, chairman of the parliament of the Moldovan Republic,

Much esteemed Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Ukraine's Supreme Council and myself, personally, I have the honor to congratulate you on the occasion of your election to the post of chairman of the parliament of the Moldovan Republic.

I want to express the hope that good-neighborly relations, friendship, and cooperation will develop and intensify between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in the interests of the freedom- loving people of our countries that have much in common in their history, traditions, and culture.

We wish the people of Moldova great achievements in building their independent democratic state and are ready to expand interparliamentary contacts.

I sincerely wish you success and well-being.
With deep respect,
Ivan Plyushch, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council
Kiev, 5 February 1993

National Affairs

'Intrigue' Attends Birth of New 'Airspace Defense Forces'

PM0902105593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 2

[Anatoliy Polyakov report: "New Branch of Ukrainian Armed Forces Set Up. Its Creation Accompanied by Intrigue Which Could Affect Pilots"]

[Text] An edict from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has set up Airspace Defense Forces on the basis of the Air Force and Air Defense Forces. Lieutenant General Vladimir Antonets, who had hitherto commanded

an air army in the Carpathian Military District, has been named commander of this new branch of the service. It was he who initiated the reform.

Literally the day after the edict was issued a group of people's deputies headed by Valentin Lemish, chairman of the parliamentary standing commission on defense and state security issues, visited the Ukrainian Air Defense Forces Command Post. It should be noted that a behind-the-scenes struggle has been under way for several months within the Ukrainian Government, parliament, and Defense Ministry regarding the creation of airspace defense troops. Even on that day Lieutenant General M. Lopatin, commander of the Air Defense Forces, and Lieutenant General V. Vasilyev, commander of the Air Force, were trying to prove yet again that this hasty reform would benefit no one. And it seems as though the people's deputies agreed with this opinion....

The command post suddenly started receiving reports about real unidentified targets. Seconds later it became clear that 16 unknown aircraft with their electronic identification systems turned off were heading for Ukraine's most important economic installations. Tension at the command post was at fever pitch. The commander of the Air Defense Forces and his subordinates acted as befits a combat situation. Orders were issued to scramble standby fighter-interceptor flights and for surface-to-air missile complexes to be placed on combat alert. Suddenly, at the height of the proceedings, Lt. Gen. V. Vasilyev, commander of the Air Force, announced that the fighters with their disabled IFF [expansion unknown] systems had been sent aloft on his orders. It was clear that in front of the parliamentarians one commander wanted to demonstrate the advantages of his combat arm to the other commander.

According to informed sources, parliament is now drawing up a request for the president's edict on the creation of the new branch of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to be countermanded.

Millions Illegally Transferred Into Foreign Banks

OW0602203893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1732 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vladimir Krotyuk, chief of general supervision department of Ukrainian General prosecutor's office, reported at a press conference in Kiev that republic's enterprises illegally transferred $51 million and 1,5 D.M. [Deutsche marks] to the accounts of foreign banks without permission of National Bank of Ukraine.

On January 29, 1993 Ukrainian Supreme Soviet established criminal responsibility for keeping currency in foreign banks without permission of National Bank of Ukraine. This crime is to be punished by a 2-year imprisonment or reformatory works of the same duration, or a penalty totalling 500 minimum wages [as received].

Subsidies for Social Purposes, Defense Limited

OW0902131193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1128 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma has announced that the only way of improving the state budget could be to reduce expenditure during a speech to ministers in Kiev Monday [8 February]. The government has discussed the drafts of the indicative plan and budget for 1993 and will now review these.

Interfax was informed by the cabinet's press bureau that the government would discuss the drafts again next week.

Kuchma said that the cabinet would not consider requests for social welfare subsidies. "This year Ukraine will eat up what has been left over after 7 years of perestroyka. After this," the prime minister stressed, "the crash will come." This forecast has been backed up by World Bank experts who have said that no country was able to bear such high social expenditures (over 40% of Ukraine's state budget went on social needs last year).

Kuchma spoke in favour of reducing the number of major construction projects. He said that not one installation should be built without the permission of the appropriate minister or the government. This also concerned public sector projects (but not educational establishments in rural areas).

The prime minister also spoke of the necessity for reducing expenditure on the armed forces even though no more than 4% of the 1993 budget expenditure had been set aside for these. In addition, the prime minister said, expenditure on maintaining state bodies would be reduced.

National Social Partnership Council Created

LD0802200293 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The president of Ukraine has issued a decree on the National Council for Social Partnership. It has been created in order to achieve a coordinated solution to problems in the social and labor spheres, and in relations between government, entrepreneurs, and trade unions. The council has been set up in accordance with agreements reached by participants in a roundtable meeting between the Ukrainian president and trade union representatives on 5 June 1992. The personnel composition of the council was confirmed and its joint chairmen were appointed.

Cabinet Discusses Draft Plans, Conversion Issue

LD0802203093 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] A meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine was held today under the chairmanship of Leonid Kuchma. The following issues were discussed: the drafts of the orientation plans, the forecast, the economic and

social development of Ukraine, and the state budget for 1993; the draft decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on tax and trade; the pace of conversion of military production, and measures relating to the effective use of the scientific and technical potential of the military industrial complex for the development of Ukraine's economy. Other issues were also discussed.

Cabinet Authorizes Ministries To List Monopolies

AU0802124293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 Feb 93 p 3

["Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Decree No. 13-93 on the Temporary Procedure for Determining the List of Enterprises That Occupy a Monopoly Position on the Market" issued in Kiev on 21 January]

[Text] In order to intensify control over prices of products (goods and services) of enterprises that occupy a monopoly position on the market, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers decrees as follows:

1. To authorize Ukraine's Ministry of the Economy and Ukraine's Ministry of Statistics, in coordination with Ukraine's Antimonopoly Committee, to make, until the introduction of the mechanism for implementing the antimonopoly registration, a list of enterprises that occupy a monopoly position on the market.

This work must be conducted jointly with ministries and other organs of state executive power that are subordinated to Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers and whose sphere of administration involves monopolist enterprises, and must be concluded by 1 March 1993.

2. To determine that the list of enterprises occupying a monopoly position on the market be published in the newspapers URYADOVYY KURYER and SILSKI VISTI.

3. This decree becomes effective on the day of its publication.
L. Kuchma, Ukraine's prime minister
A. Lobov, minister of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers
Kiev, 21 January 1993

Further Reportage on Kuchma Visit to Crimea

AU1002104393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Feb 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine's Prime Minister in the Crimean Republic"]

[Text] On 4 February, Ukraine Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma arrived in Sevastopol. He visited the production association "Sevastopol Nautical [Morskyy] Plant imeni S. Ordzhonikidze," where he met with its leadership and workers. Then the head of government met with Ivan Yermakov, presidential representative in Sevastopol, and Viktor Semenov, chairman of the City Council. Also present were Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and Rear Admiral Borys Kozhyn, commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces. Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council, stated that Leonid Kuchma arrived in the republic at the invitation of the presidium of the Crimean Supreme Council.

Ukraine's prime minister stated at a meeting with deputies at all levels, members of the board of the executive committee and state administration, leaders of enterprises, Black Sea Fleet, Ukraine's Naval Forces, and representatives of public organizations: "We have embarked upon a difficult road of renewing the way of managing the state and restoring economic ties with Russia and other CIS states." The head of state believes that it is very important for Ukraine to establish ties with the former CEMA countries. He emphasized that it is unlikely that there will be large investments from abroad. The main task for today, as Ukraine's prime minister firmly believes, is "to end the economic war with Russia."

"Ukraine... did not withdraw from the ruble zone on its own initiative, but was kicked out from that area on 1 July 1992 when Russia blocked the financial and banking settlements with our young state," said Kuchma. "However, after all, once there is no single USSR, there can be no single ruble area."

Ukraine's prime minister pointed out that if Ukraine's oblasts agree with neighboring oblasts of the Russian Federation on free import and export of certain goods, he will sign such an edict.

L. Kuchma gave much attention to further economic development of Sevastopol and said that a draft budget of the city for 1993 had already been prepared and that, according to it, 85 percent of the capital will be allocated by Ukraine and only 15 percent will be taken from the city's resources.

Yesterday, L. Kuchma visited industrial enterprises in Kerch and Simferopol and met with the leadership and specialists of the agro-industrial complex of the Crimean Republic. The visit of Ukraine's prime minister to the Crimean Republic continues.

New Ukraine Association Supports Government

LD0502142493

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 2300 GMT on 4 February carries a six-minute report, including recorded excerpts, by an unidentified correspondent on a news conference by People's Deputy Volodymyr Filenko, leader of the New Ukraine Association. The news conference was held on 4 February following the Supreme Council examination of the government's plan of action for 1993.

The correspondent says that "today the New Ukraine Association numbers 16 collective members in its ranks. Among them are political parties and organizations of entrepreneurs. The parliamentary faction numbers 45

people's deputies." He goes on to say that "the New Ukraine Association and its faction in the Supreme Council in general supported the government's plan of action, which was examined by parliament."

Filenko told journalists: "Naturally, this does not mean that at the same time we share all the positions that the plan of action contains, but far from it. The essence of our criticism, if briefly formulated, is that we criticized the government's plan of action from the right, believing it to be not sufficiently market-orientated, not sufficiently (?detailed in the section) of support for (?non-state) and entrepreneurial structures, and believing it to be such that, in view of various objective and subjective circumstances, it will not contribute to the rate of privatization that we would like to see in our state."

Filenko continued: "However, we are realists, and have understood that this very approach had a realistic chance of success in (?this) Supreme Council and perhaps in our society as well. Evidently, there were serious (?corrections) in the last version of the plan of action brought about by the well-known attack from the left, an attack headed by the Lugansk delegation, and partly organized by the director corps and its lobby in parliament. We were a bit despondent because the government, when elaborating this plan, was somewhat marking time."

The correspondent goes on to say: "The leader of the New Ukraine Association also noted that they support the government in its desire to bring order to the management of state property. However, in Filenko's opinion, there are no special expectations that radical steps towards market reforms or implementation of privatization will be taken in the near future. The situation is such that the government has to concentrate its efforts on pulling various spheres of the economy out of crisis. But, Filenko again emphasized, New Ukraine supports the government in its strivings."

The leader of the New Ukraine Association also expressed the attitude of this organization to the setting up of the anti-imperialist anticommunist front according to the concept of the People's Movement, the Congress of National Democratic Forces, and others. Filenko said his group shares the concern of our colleagues in the democratic camp regarding the renewal of the Communist Party, which could have serious political consequences for our society. But all the same, the leader of the New Ukraine Association is not inclined to an exacerbated perception of such a threat, he noted.

Filenko says: "We do not consider this threat to be that strong, that one could throw oneself to the other extreme, and create (?one's own front against the front). We are concerned that centrist forces are being eroded in society, where the left wing is becoming more pink than ever, with a tendency to becoming redder, and the right wing is ever more demonstrating its brown color (?on the scale of colors). We believe that the activity of extremist forces in society could bring about two things: the division of society into irreconciliable antagonistic groups, one of which will arm itself with the hammer and sickle, and the slogan, we will revive no matter what; and the other group, which will arm itself with the slogan, we will die but not allow it. The clash of these two groups could be dangerous in society. But neither do we reject the possibility of an abrupt turn of extremist forces on the scale of degrees, and the prospect of their merging."

The correspondent says in conclusion: "In view of these circumstances, [word indistinct] Filenko, New Ukraine believes that the creation of the anti-imperialist anticommunist front could objectively provoke the uniting tendencies of the leftists, that is the procommunist forces. Instead the association proposes a mechanism for permanent consultations and roundtables. Uniting tendencies are needed in accordance with the principle 'for', and not in accordance with the principle 'against'. In the opinion of the leader of New Ukraine, a harmonious combination of national and civic patriotism is necessary. In this very way, he believes, one will be able to achieve accord in Ukraine. Filenko, leader of New Ukraine, expressed the association's position regarding some other issues of socio-economic life in our state."

Rukh Registers as Political Party

AU0902092893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 3 Feb 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Rukh Has Reregistered Itself"]

[Text] On 2 February, at Ukraine's Ministry of Justice, Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of Ukraine's People's Rukh [Movement for Perestroyka], obtained a registration certificate for Rukh as a political party. The Statute and Program of Rukh have been altered in conformity with Ukraine's law "On Associations of Citizens" at the fourth congress of Ukraine's People's Rukh on 4-6 January.

Security Service Chief Visits Lvov, Explains Tasks, Results

AU0802112893 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 29 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Rudenko from Lvov; date not given: "There Are People Fit for Intelligence Work"]

[Text] Yevhen Marchuk, head of Ukraine's Security Service, recently visited Lvov to present the new chief, Vasyl Horbatyuk, to the oblast administration personnel. When journalists asked the guest what he thought about the year that has just gone, they got the following answer: "We have begun to build up a basis for serious results." Marchuk recalled that the American Security Service, when it prepared its struggle against organized crime, kept it secret for more than four years.

The Ukrainian Security Service is ahead of its American colleagues by as much as three years. Today, we may report on how we have accumulated the basis for serious results, repeated Marchuk, and how efficiently the illegal

actions of a number of ministries and departments have been investigated. Therefore, in the course of time, we will learn about new cases of corruption and abuse, and high governmental structures will be rid of their criminal elements. Even the "oil-related case" indicated that the corruption level of our power and economic structures is high. It is already impossible to stop its growth by the efforts of the Militia and the Procurator's Office alone. Here, it is necessary to use methods of intelligence and counterintelligence. This is because there exist criminal groupings that have something like special services of their own. They possess the technological facilities for protection, wiretapping, and detection and also have their own intelligence services, which obtain information from law enforcement agencies.

The new head of the Oblast Security Service will have to do much work in this important region of our state, taking into account such problems as the protection of the borders.

"Today, 99.9 percent of Security Service officers are indigenous residents of Ukraine," concluded Marchuk. "The sovereignization process has reformed many former KGB officers. However, we do not cherish illusions that treason is impossible in our ranks."

Belarus

Foreign Minister Cited on Arms Treaties Ratification

LD0902140493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Drawing a curtain, as they say, on the session of the Supreme Soviet, the parliament of Belarus ratified three major international legal documents: the Treaty on the Limitation and Reduction of Strategic Offensive Arms—START I, the Lisbon Protocol to it, and the 1968 Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Petr Kravchanka, head of the foreign policy department of Belarus, commenting on the parliament's decision noted:

[Begin Kravchanka recording] The uniqueness of the decision is that all political factions and tendencies were unanimous in acknowledging Belarus to be a non-nuclear state. We are one of the few countries in the world to have ratified the START Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol to it without any reservations. [end recording]

Clinton Assures Security Guarantees, Aid

WS1002115593 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1035 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] As the Belarusian Supreme Council Press Center informed a BELINFORM correspondent, on the evening of 9 February, U.S. President Bill Clinton, on his initiative, made a call to Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Council. They discussed issues of mutual interest.

The U.S. President congratulated the Belarusian Supreme Council chairman and the deputies personally and on behalf of the American nation on their consistent course toward a nuclear-free and neutral status. This is how Bill Clinton assessed their decision of 4 February to ratify the agreement on the reduction of strategic offensive arms (START I), the Lisbon Protocol, and the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms.

The U.S. President assured the Belarusian leader that the United States would provide security guarantees for the Republic. Apart from the financial assistance within the Nunn-Lugar law framework, the President expressed readiness to render additional assistance in implementing the assumed responsibilities according to the ratified agreements. Bill Clinton informed Stanislav Shushkevich of his instruction to hold consultations on the given issues at the Foreign Ministries level.

Both leaders exchanged opinions on the expansion of bilateral cooperation, including the economic and cultural spheres. Bill Clinton expressed his wish to continue dialogue at the top level.

Stanislav Shushkevich confirmed Belarus' allegiance to the course toward a nuclear-free and neutral state and its endeavors to contribute to the strengthening of peace and security. He noted that Belarus is interested in the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations between the two states.

The Belarusian leader stressed that his country had created a legal basis for protecting the interests of foreign investors. He said he was interested in attracting not only state but also private U.S. capital.

Speaking on the possibilities of humanitarian cooperation, S. Shushkevich was in favor of the expansion of contacts with the Belarusian diaspora in the United States.

Both leaders spoke out for regular contacts at different levels.

Defense Ministry Official on Transfer From 'Hot' Areas

WS0502133893 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian No 11, 22 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Colonel Ivan Vasilevich Zubko, chief of the Personnel Department at the Belarusian Defense Ministry, by VO SLAVU RODINY correspondent Colonel G. Poltavskiy under the "Our Interviews" rubric: "Colonel I. Zubko: 'I Want You To Be Patient...'"]

[Text] [Poltavskiy] Ivan Vasilevich, please, tell us how the Supreme Council resolution on the transfer of Belarusian servicemen from the "hot" areas to our Republic is being implemented.

[Zubko] I would like to stress immediately that the adoption of the Supreme Council resolution on the transfer of officers—citizens of the Republic of Belarus—from the "hot" areas was not accidental. It is related to a long-standing problem. The Personnel Department has long been concerned with this issue. We clearly understood the difficulties of our fellow countrymen in the neighboring foreign countries. We took the threat surrounding them in those regions to heart. Certainly, there could be no delay in this issue. We used to transfer our citizens from the "hot" areas if we had vacancies in our troops.

As soon as the resolution came out we began recalling all our officers from the Caucasus, Central Asia, Moldova, and the Baltics, regardless of their age, service period, and position. This work has been continued until today.

We deal with this problem in the following way. We assign young officers to vacancies and transfer pensioners to the reserve. By the way, the latter enjoy all benefits in accordance with the current law of the Republic of Belarus. This means that those officers who have served 15 years have the right to retirement security.

[Poltavskiy] What difficulties is your department faced with?

[Zubko] It is natural that not everything runs smoothly. The resolution charged us with transferring all officers from the "hot" areas by 31 December 1992. Unfortunately, we have not yet solved this problem. The reason is that the governments of those countries with which we must coordinate our moves create certain obstacles. First of all, these are the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Moldova... Russia, too. They sometimes delay the transfer, the arrangement of officers' documents, and play for time... We continue to persistently work to resolve this issue.

You can judge this yourself. As of today, we have transferred 385 servicemen from the Caucasus, although we have sent 815 requests. The North-West group has transferred 128 officers, while 952 are still there. Central Asia has sent back 203 servicemen, and we have written 591 requests. Moldova has dismissed 33 officers, and 23 more memos have been sent there. The Personnel Department has sent a total of 2,381 requests, and so far, only 749 officers have returned to Belarus.

I can honestly tell you that we have written as many requests as we have received applications to serve in the Belarusian Armed Forces. Presently this issue is a matter of the conscientiousness of the leaders of these states. In my opinion, they are simply obliged to adopt a positive decision. All talks that the Personnel Department is delaying this issue are groundless.

[Poltavskiy] What is the transfer mechanism?

[Zubko] Mechanisms may be different. For example, a number of officers had appealed to be transferred long before the Supreme Council resolution appeared. Their names were put down in a special register of the Personnel Department. Later all this information was entered in a computer. Then we sorted out the data and sent requests to the "hot" areas.

The Defense Ministries of the given states must consider these requests. Outstanding debts must be settled with officers, and they must be sent to us. Unfortunately, arrangements are not always so fast. Some of our countrymen have been waiting for the answer for months. Despite this, we hope and believe that discretion and common sense will gain the upper hand. Soon all officers who are Belarusian citizens will return to their homeland.

[Poltavskiy] Could you tell us a few words about the prospects of this issue?

[Zubko] I may be repeating myself, but we are fully determined to see this matter through. We have sent not only memos to all "hot" areas but also telegrams to the leaders and defense ministers of these states requesting their assistance in transferring Belarusian officers. In a word, the Personnel Department is not sitting around twiddling its thumbs and waiting, but it is acting and influencing the current situation.

Moreover, some officers address us with complaints that they are simply not dismissed. We send repeated telegrams concerning each case and request the Defense Ministries and unit commanders to meet the demand of the Belarusian Supreme Council.

The Personnel Department keeps a strict account of all memos and all officers who have returned and who have not. In short, we exercise a permanent control.

Sometimes officers' parents turn to us. We often issue requests to them. We do this to ensure that these requests reach the addressee.

There is another thing. Presently we have some new "hot" spots which the resolution does not mention. Well, we will also have to solve this problem.

And one more problem. The Supreme Council has adopted a resolution charging the Defense Ministry by May 1993 to prepare a transfer program for those officers who have expressed their wish to return to Belarus. The Personnel Department has already begun working on it. My personal opinion is that the next stage will be the transfer of officers from the Far East and the region beyond the Lake Baykal where service conditions are the most difficult. Probably from the North as well...

[Poltavskiy] What would you like to wish those fellow countrymen who want to return to their homeland and faithfully serve the Belarusian people?

[Zubko] I would like to wish them one thing—to be patient and not to think that their native republic forgot them. The government and the Defense Ministry are concerned about them and are trying to find ways to solve this complicated issue, even despite Belarus' limited economic possibilities. Everyone must understand this. Our countrymen will be transferred to their motherland, regardless of the enormous material costs. First of all, we will recall specialists we are short of—artillerymen, communications and car engineers, and others.

We advise those officers who have served a fixed number of years to go to the reserve in the regions of their service and later come home.

[Poltavskiy] Thank you.

Military Concerned About Financial Resources

WS0902122093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Belarusian Defense Ministry has many problems. At their meeting, the servicemen tried to find a solution to the financial deadlock in which they found themselves after the 1993 budget had been approved by the Republic's Supreme Soviet. The financial resources are not sufficient to provide even the most needed spare parts for the military combat equipment. Even the destruction of armored equipment envisioned by the international treaties calls for substantial expenditures. The available resources can only cover wages, housing, fuel and lubricants, and food. The military—faced with

the stark choice: Army or money—has not yet found any realistic solution. The legislature will have the final say in this matter.

Defense Ministry Forms Military Police-Type Subunits

WS0902165593 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1315 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] By order of the Belarusian defense minister, special command service subunits have been formed in the capital, the oblast centers, and other towns containing major military garrisons, following the military police model in foreign countries.

Colonel Sergey Anoshin, chief of the Army Service Department at the Chief Staff of the Belarusian Armed Forces, explained to a BELINFORM correspondent: "The key goal of the special command service is to ensure military discipline in garrisons and to create conditions necessary for everyday life in the Army. Special subunits are being formed at every commandant's office and they will closely cooperate with the Interior Ministry units. Professionals are already on their guard duty, they are patrolling the streets together with the militia and looking for soldiers who have left their units without permission. Each day about 220 specially trained servicemen patrol the streets. Their number is doubled on Sundays and holidays.

National Democratic Party Official Interviewed on Split

WS0802120293 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 18 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with the former chairman of the Belarusian National Democratic Party Viktar Naumenka by DOBRY VECHAR correspondent Tatsyana Lazouskayaa; place and date not given: "'Do the National Democratic Party Members Have Different Opinions? These Rumors Are Exaggerated!' Viktar Naumenka States"]

[Text] [Lazouskaya] Viktar Ivanavich, is this information correct? You are no longer chairman of the Belarusian National Democratic Party [NDPB]. According to rumors, this is the result of a split in your party....

[Naumenka] An extraordinary NDPB conference took place on 3 October 1992. It was held at the initiative of our primary organizations. The conference had to discuss a number of issues, one of which was how to prevent an NDPB split. This was the sharpest issue for the conference delegates. But lack of time prevented us from discussing all the agenda issues. They were postponed until the fourth conference. A temporary chairman, Aleg Alyaxandravich Apryshka, was elected. The remaining members of the council were asked to fulfill their obligations until the regular conference takes place on 23 January.

[Lazouskaya] What was the reason for the NDPB split? A difference of opinions? Ambitions of the leaders? By the way, my colleagues consider the ambitions of NDPB leaders to be the main reason of the disagreements among NDPB members. What do you think: Are the journalists correct?

[Naumenka] I can assure you that there is no difference of opinions among NDPB members. Simply, after the third conference, some persons disagreed with its decisions. All of them are new members of the party.

I am answering your questions as a private person and nobody authorized me to reveal to you the reasons behind the NDPB split. Party ethics do not allow me speak in the party's name.

[Lazouskaya] Viktar Ivanavich, the inner party life is the holiest of holies as some put it. The party members should solve their problems themselves. But this super secrecy does not benefit your party. There are a lot of rumors around your party. It is clear that the lack of information produces a crop of rumors. Will the party at last speak openly to journalists?

[Naumenka] On 23 January 1993, the fourth NDPB conference will be held. It will discuss the situation in the party. It is possible that journalists will be invited to be present at the conference. It has not yet been decided. As for me, I support the presence of mass media representatives at the conference.

[Lazouskaya] Thank you for the interview. Let us hope that we will have a chance to be present at your conference.

NARODNAYA GAZETA Predicts Shushkevich's Fate

WS0902165093 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1315 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] "I am not going to share Gorbachev's fate," said Supreme Council Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich in reply to the NARODNAYA GAZETA readers' question. Journalist Sergey Plytkevich, however, is of a different opinion.

Having analyzed the political and economic situation in Belarus and the relations among the legislative factions, the journalist believes that S. Shushkevich is only a nominal head of the state, while the real power is in the hands of the government.

"It is no secret that S. Shushkevich is alone," writes S. Plytkevich. "He has not been able to form his team." Last year, the opinion of the legislative speaker on certain issues of principle differed fundamentally from the views of the opposition. The latter turned away from him. Former communists see the democratic S. Shushkevich as an intelligent "black sheep". The chairman has not joined any party. Presently, none of them openly declares its support for S. Shushkevich. Everyone is in opposition.

This situation can by no means be called stable. The journalist forecasts that the "precarious status quo in Belarus will last until S. Shushkevich's first great blunder or until a change of situation in Russia."

BSDA Leader Predicts Government Fall 'This Year'

WS0902170493 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1515 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] "We propose building an antitotalitarian society of equal opportunities," says Oleg Trusov, Central Council chairman of the Belarusian Social Democratic Assembly [BSDA] and Supreme Council deputy. "Our party calls the people neither to the communist nor to the capitalist paradise. We will not be living in a wealthy society for another 30-35 years. However, today we must begin moving in this direction."

In the economic sphere, the assembly primarily proposes the privatization of land. Only then will it be possible to sell enterprises and other state property to the people. This is what the BSDA program states. O. Trusov believes that this time is not far off.

O. Trusov forecasts: "The Council of Ministers will already begin falling apart this year. Its chairman Vyacheslav Kebich will resign together with his team or he will pass more than a half of the ministerial portfolios to the Democratic Assembly. The latter will form the core of the national trust government. It is only then that the reform will be implemented."

Popular Front Issues Declaration on Official Media Policy

WS0802111593 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 20 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed article under the "Own Information" rubric: "The Belarusian Popular Front: 'Freedom of Speech Is Highly Important'"]

[Text] The Council of the Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] has issued a declaration clarifying the position of the BNF on the Belarusian information policy.

The document states that the BNF has always considered freedom of speech to be the most important principle of a democratic society where an individual has a guaranteed right of expressing his views and opinions. The government has been pursuing its information policy in absolutely totalitarian traditions of the old times, despite the fact that the Republic of Belarus had been declared an independent state.

The BNF states that the Belarusian Council of Ministers has monopolized Belarusian mass media; the Publishing House "Belaruski Dom Druku" has become the property of the Administrative Department of the Cabinet of Ministers. The BNF is aware of the pressure on periodicals, radio, and television editorial staff during the time when the campaign on holding a Republic-wide referendum was in full swing. The Ministry of Information refused to recognize the legal right of the opposition deputies to a regular broadcast time on radio and television. Finally, at the beginning of 1993, the broadcasting of independent television companies was suspended without any court decisions and expert opinions.

The declaration states that the government lacks the concept of an information policy. The more than 0.5 billion rubles that had been invested in the "Ostankino" television company in 1992, did not encourage the broadcasting of objective information in Belarus.

On that ground, the BNF considers that the adoption of the law on press and demonopolization of mass media should be the first step towards a democratic society. The government should promote independent radio and television companies. Belarus should join the world information space.

The law on languages should be obligatory, in the first place, for all the ministries, state committees, and departments.

The Belarusian community should control the contents of all publications, radio, and television programs which can develop moral decay in teenagers.

"Totalitarian control over press should give way to the rule of the civilized democratic principles of freedom of speech and information," the BNF statement says.

Moldova

Snegur's Regime Called 'Anti-Romanian'

AU0902201693 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 5 Feb 93 p 4

["Excerpts" from the Parliament declaration; place and date of issue not given: "Snegur's Regime Is Characterized by Reactionary, Pro-Imperial, and Anti-Romanian Tendencies"]

[Text] The declaration-appeal published by a number of Bessarabian deputies in the daily SFATUL TARII [COUNCIL OF THE COUNTRY] broadly reviews the evolution of society, assesses the work of Parliament, of the president, of the various cabinets, and the dynamics of the relationship among various political forces and state institutions over the past few years in the country on the other side of the Prut River.

Here are some excerpts; we plan to publish further fragments in our next issues.

This declaration-appeal has been dictated by the worsening of the social-political and economic situation of our republic, by the genuine perils menacing the democratic achievements of our movement for rebirth and national liberation, and by the demagogic speculations

circulated with diabolic insistence by the grouping of conservative and revanchist political forces.

Despite the fact that no political force has actually raised the issue of an immediate reunification of our nation with Romania, conservative forces at home and abroad—which are interested in destabilizing the social-political situation and in provoking new social disputes—keep talking about the scaring perspective of reunification to achieve the holding of a humiliating and anti-Romanian referendum and the ratification of the documents on Moldova's joining CIS, signed in December 1991 by President Mircea Snegur.

Lately it has become a habit that shortly before Parliament is to make important decisions, either the conservative political groups or President Mircea Snegur make unfounded statements or issue groundless appeals, thus splintering society even more and preventing normal legislative activity in the highest body of state power, in Parliament. The most remarkable reactionary, pro-imperial, and anti-Romanian tendencies are to be seen especially in the ill-famed appeal signed by 159 deputies (in October 1992) and in the discussions that followed President Mircea Snegur's statement around New Year's Eve (24 December) [suggesting a referendum on Moldova's future status].

The declarations and appeals made in that style and the aggressive actions undertaken by conservative forces—which coincide in time with similar actions of the pro-imperial and chauvinistic forces in Russia—are meant to manipulate public opinion in the sense of distracting the population's attention from the serious economic and social problems of the republic, from the economic crisis, and from the poverty of the people.

Article Condemns Snegur's 'Dictatorship'

AU1002131393 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 4 Feb 93 p 4

[Viorel Patrichi article: "Mircea Snegur's Dictatorship"]

[Excerpts] Through a "secret" vote on 2 February, the Chisinau Parliament endorsed the resignations of Alexandru Mosanu, Ion Hadirca, and Valeriu Matei. Vasile Nedelciuc's repeated application for resignation was rejected. After Mircea Druc's dismissal, this new stage represents the second blow dealt by Mircea Snegur to the pro-union Romanians across the Prut River. Tension is increasing. There is talk of an imminent persecution of intellectuals, emigration to Romania, and civil war between those favoring the union and Soviet activists. [passage omitted]

This phenomenon signals alarming evolvement by President Snegur, who wants to enhance his ego: He has control over the government through the puppet of Sangeli; now he even controls the Parliament and, thus, has an open hand to restore Russian communism, and it seems that his wife is making a considerable contribution to it. A "memoir" is also being passed around in Romania signed by 50 Bessarabian deputies warning of the restoration of Bolshevism. In Chisinau, pro-union ideas coexist with reform ones and this endangers the positions of former activists. "These ideologists," the "memoir" emphasizes, "try to move heaven and earth to demonstrate that the reunification would be a great misfortune for the Moldovan Romanians on the east side of the Prut River, and that the independence of the Republic of Moldova is threatened by Romania. We believe in and want to stress the idea that the reunification will take place under circumstances when the will of the population of our republic is decisive and in the same way as the proclamation of independence. This historic process—the only one that will ensure a free and dignified future for our children and children's children—has to be prepared." If we put this text next to the statement made by Mircea Ivanovich [Snegur] on 24 December 1992, then there is no need for any commentary.

We have to point out that ethnic issues in Bessarabia are secondary; primary place is given to the activists who are going to become the proprietors of reforms like in Russia, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Poland, or Romania. Actually, any type of development is possible in Chisinau today. The only solution for the Bessarabians favoring union is to struggle for a modern election law and the establishment of a strong political formation that will include national reunification into its program. If their desire for change is genuine—and we do not doubt this—they should no longer tolerate the squandering of the nation's efforts. Group animosities—this incurable ailment of Romanians—have to be overcome and solidarity has to be achieved because the opportunists of this surrogate of Snegur are very powerful. A clique made up of Russians, Ukrainians, and Romanian opportunists has already been set up; many of them come from mixed families that have spread to the last hamlet through agricultural engineers. Bessarabia is preserving the most despondent kolkhozes that even Russia has given up. "If the kolkhoz chief refuses to let the farmer have a kilogram of corn or flour, then that farmer does not get it," Alexandru Mosanu said at his last news conference. Alexandru Mosanu proved to be a genuine Romanian and lost; however, his ideals have to make a comeback. "Their real aim," he said, "is to isolate us from our main supporter, to isolate us from Romania." [passage omitted]

For many of the more superficial people among us, the emotions of the Bessarabian Romanians may seem outdated. [passage omitted] The time of tears is over. What is needed now is action, because Mircea Snegur does not know how to weep.

Parliament President Lucinschi Discusses Prospects

AU1002100393 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 6-7 Feb 93 p 1

[Interview with Petru Lucinschi, the new parliament president, by Constantin Lupu and Peter Sragher, in

Chisinau on 4 February: "We Will Be Brothers Forever, No Matter What Policy Is Being Promoted"]

[Text] A few minutes after the absolute victory in the dispute for the seat of the parliament was announced, Mr. Petru Lucinschi gave an exclusive interview to the daily ADEVARUL. We remind our readers that he was first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldova and later the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Currently he is the ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Moscow.

[ADEVARUL] How do you view relations between the parliament on one side and the president on the other?

[Lucinschi] That is how things are... there is a struggle: The question is who is stronger, who is more powerful. However, the democratic principle of each state should lead to cooperation. The Constitution specifies the duties of each of us. Therefore, the future and the atmosphere in our society is connected to the cooperation between these three forces [executive, legislative, and presidency]. We are a young democratic state. We must learn. There is no other way than cooperation. I hope that we are going to find a common language.

[ADEVARUL] What will your priority actions in your capacity as president of the parliament be?

[Lucinschi] I think that currently economic issues come first; the second are political problems. I am referring to the Dniester Region and the rayons in the south. The third group of issues are the social ones, meaning the way people should live today. To all this we should add the issues in the area of culture, education, and youth problems.

[ADEVARUL] Mr. Lucinschi, how do you view future relations with Romania?

[Lucinschi] As early as December 1989, I started very good relations with Romania. Life requires such relations. These things do not depend on politicians. We will be brothers forever, no matter what policy is being promoted. Some might try to intensify these relations, others to hold them back for a while, but life cannot be stopped. We have been side by side, we have been brothers, we have a rich common history and we will integrate.

[ADEVARUL] Do you have any forms of integration in mind?

[Lucinschi] Various forms in all spheres of activity. In certain areas we have better in others poorer cooperation. But there are no obstacles and nor should there be any. I believe that we should continue with what we have achieved in the field of culture but we should also intensify cooperation in the economic sector.

[ADEVARUL] Do you believe that the referendum proposed by President Snegur might still be topical?

[Lucinschi] Currently, we are living in such times when opinions change from morning to evening. We will see what happens. I cannot tell you now how the parliamentary majority will decide. Everything depends on the people's attitude toward our independence. There have been certain interpretations, most often artificial ones. If the majority wishes to hold a referendum, it is not worth making a tragedy out of it. There might be changes anyway.

[ADEVARUL] Will your previous experience in leading positions help you in your new capacity?

[Lucinschi] I believe that it will help me because each person's activity is made up of positive and negative things. If we draw certain conclusions after bad things, that is good! I believe that it is necessary for me to clarify what has been good in my life and I thus avoid what has been bad!

Alksnis Criticizes Russian Policy on Dniester Region

LD0902203793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1801 GMT 9 Feb 93

[by ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—Former USSR people's deputy and advocate of the preservation of the Soviet Union, Viktor Alksnis, and two people's deputies of the Russian Federation, Valentina Linkova and Leonid Yasenkov, who are currently in Tiraspol at the invitation of leader of the Dniester region Igor Smirnov, told a news conference on Tuesday [9 February] that they were "struck by the readiness of the citizens of the Dniester region to stand up for their freedom to the end."

According to OLVIYA-PRESS agency, participants of the news conference stated that "Russia would not leave the Dniester region alone." At the same time, they criticized the position of the Russian Foreign Ministry for "not having a concept of relations with the commonwealth countries." However, the speakers at the news conference believe that the Russian Supreme Soviet is changing its attitude towards the policy of the present leadership of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Speaking on the future of the peoples of the former Soviet Union, Viktor Alksnis noted that "we are doomed to restore a single state," saying it will be a qualitatively new country as the old union collapsed mostly because it was built on a national principle.

The participants of the news conference considered the planned signing of a number of agreements between Russia and Moldova, including that on the withdrawal of the 14th Army without taking into account the viewpoint of the Dniester region residents, to be "inadmissible." At the same time, the speakers gave an optimistic evaluation of the results of their talks with Commander of the 14th Army Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed who,

according to the deputies, told them he would stay with the people of the Dniester region to the end, no matter what might happen.

Government Welcomes Opening of CSCE Mission

LD1002104493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau February 10 TASS—The CSCE mission that opened in Moldova should promote the establishment of durable and lasting peace in the conflict-stricken Dniester region, a spokesman for the Moldovan Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS today. The decision on opening the mission was made at the latest CSCE meeting in Prague.

According to the Foreign Ministry spokesman, the mission will help work out the status of the eastern regions of the republic and promote the fulfilment of the agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from its territory. Aside from it, it will monitor the fulfilment of international commitments on the observance of human rights and the rights of national minorities. It will ensure control over the fulfilment of agreements on settling the Dniester conflict only by political means.

According to a preliminary agreement, the CSCE mission will stay in Moldova for no less than six months. The mandate of the mission may be prolonged, if need be, on the decision of the Committee of Senior Officials of the CSCE member states.

Economics Minister Wants Strong Ties With East, West

LD0802204393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2030 GMT 8 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau February 8 TASS—The major aim of the present government of the Moldovan Republic is to strengthen business ties both with East and West, Minister of Economics of Moldova, Sergiu Certan, told the newspaper "KOMMERSANT MOLDOVY" (BUSINESSMAN OF MOLDOVA). According to the minister, Moldova is looking forward to receiving the latest technology and know-how from the West which are necessary for the modernization of industry and agriculture of the republic. Moldova hopes to continue to sell its products to the East as before.

Touching on the introduction of the national currency unit - lei, the minister said that this measure has its advantages and shortcomings. The evident positive effects could include the streamlining of money circulation in the republic, the possibility of pursuing an independent economic policy and the effective protection of the consumer market. However, countries of the rouble zone have certain privileges in buying fuels, the minister noted. Moldova buys fuels now with a 1.2 additional price coefficient as compared with the internal prices in Russia, while a 3.0 price coefficient is used for the states not participating in the rouble zone.

Kazakhstan

Further Comment on Nuclear, Military Sites

BK0902152993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Feb 9 (AFP)—Kazakhstan has closed a major Russian nuclear test site long blamed for causing radiation-induced illnesses in the region, a senior government official said.

"For 40 years the Russians had been exploding their nuclear bombs" at the site located in the northern Kazakh city of Semipalatinsk, Usain Suleymanov, the spokesman of newly independent republic said.

People living around the site had been struggling for its closure for the past 10 years, said Suleymanov, who participated in the two-day ministerial meeting of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which ended in this southwestern Pakistani city Sunday.

"We had suffered very bad consequences," he said, "we have many people who were born deformed ... there were lot of cases of cancer and tumors."

Kazakhstan has inherited high military technology at this site, which was closed early last week, he said, adding that the government wants to convert it into a scientific research centre for non-military projects.

Lying between Europe and Asia, Kazakhstan is five times the size of France, but has a population of only 18 million.

The former Soviet Union used the republic to stockpile 2,000 deliverable nuclear warheads, some 1,500 of which are believed to be mounted on strategic missiles or long range bombers.

The country also acquired a huge space technology centre at Baykonur in central Kazakhstan. Suleymanov said the centre was still in the control of Russians who used it as a launching site.

"We do not have enough troops and army to keep up this place," he said, but the plant "now belongs to both of us."

Suleymanov disclosed that talks were underway between the Russian Defence Ministry and the Kazakhstan Government to make it a "semi-commercial" launching site mutually beneficial to both Russia and Kazakhstan.

He confirmed that negotiations were also underway with Washington on financial aid for the task of dismantling Kazakhstan's nuclear warheads.

He stressed the programme could not be rushed through, despite the fact that the United States were urging them to complete it within two years.

Suleymanov said Kazakhstan wants to convert the warheads to produce nuclear energy, but added the Russians also wanted to use the warheads for their own commercial advantage.

On economic issues, he said Kazakhstan wanted to have its own currency in the future and split from the "united ruble zone."

The ruble is sliding drastically, "it changes not every day, it is every hour," he said.

However, he believed the process of adopting its own currency could take five to 10 years. He said the country needs to emerge from the vicious circle of selling its ore and natural wealth cheaply to buy expensive foreign products.

Nazarbayev Breaks Nonparty 'Vow' To Head Centrist Group

MK0902132993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 93 pp 1, 3

[Sergey Kozlov report: "President Joins Party. And Immediately Becomes Its Leader"]

[Text] Kazakhstan—Many people were expecting the appearance of this new heavenly body on Kazakhstan's political horizons. Various small and medium-sized "stars" have begun to shine here since the sun went down on the Communist Party, but none could completely take the place of that "leading and guiding force." And then last Saturday [6 February], to all appearances, such a force appeared. The "Kazakhstan People's Unity Union"—that will henceforth be the name of the new "political organization of the center," as its program theses state. The union's republican founding conference, held at the Justice Ministry, was attended by more than 230 delegates from all oblasts of the new state. Some 35 percent were leaders of industrial and agricultural enterprises, 7 percent entrepreneurs, and the rest represented mainly the intelligentsia. There were also the leaders of most of the republic's political parties and movements, as well as 11 members of parliament.

Serik Abdrakhmanov, chairman of the organizing committee and a well-known political figure in Kazakhstan, delivered a trenchant speech at the opening session of the conference. In his view, privatization Kazakhstan-style has led to the formation of a financial oligarchy drawn from the ranks of permanent civil servants, and this oligarchy has now been given the opportunity to live a trouble-free life financed by payments for the utilization of property. The activity of commercial banks in Kazakhstan today is medieval usury, and so on...

It must be said that Abdrakhmanov's speech stood out against a background of loyalist speeches from the majority. But despite the generally "pro-presidential" mood of the event, the members of the organizing committee had to spend a good deal of time dispelling strong suspicions among the press and a significant proportion of those present that the union was tailor-made for the head of state. Especially since the elections are not far off and the Kazakhstan leader will now have rivals.

But, one way or another, all the indications are that this was the birth of a political force capable of a great deal—that is the basic tone of commentaries in the local media. This force is oriented toward all Kazakhstanis and declares its line to be "strictly centrist," without "right" or "left." The union's program is based on total support for President Nazarbayev's reform policy. "This union is objectively necessary on our republic's political scene," the president said in his lengthy speech at the conference, "among other things in order to oppose national radicalism, which—I am not afraid to say—will inevitably exist, in one form or another, during the formative period of a young independent state. I have taken an immediate liking not only to the program principles, but also to the name of this new political organization. I have said repeatedly that only unity among Kazakhstanis can ensure peace and prosperity in our land—the shared homeland of all the republic's citizens irrespective of nationality. A monolithic people—that is certainly most important, but the very word 'unity' is far broader and internally richer."

The new organization's draft rules were presumably deliberately formulated in such a way that provisions relating to its leader are fairly flexible: "The union's leader is not an official of the organization and does not exercise executive or administrative functions within its structure." This rather unusual status is explained thus: "As the champion of the union's political strategy, he is nominated as its official candidate for the post of president of the republic."

So the leader must be either a presidential candidate or the president, and the union supports him, organizes the elections, and so forth, along the lines of one of America's two major parties.

Nursultan Nazarbayev responded eagerly to the proposal that he take the post of leader, noting that the peoples' friendship, centrism, and social equality which are enshrined in the organization's program theses are greatly to his liking.

"As for the totality of the political association's goals," Nazarbayev observed, "it cannot satisfy all strata of society. In this case it is apposite to speak of the unity of interests and actions of people who support the union's program principles. First and foremost, the course of consistent socioeconomic transformations and steady progress in our economy—on this basis it would, in my view, be much more logical to call the new association—but this is for you to decide—the 'Kazakhstan Unity and Progress Union.' If this is the case. Unity for the sake of progress, forward movement, in our homeland."

Thus Nursultan Nazarbayev has broken his own "non-party vow," which he made in August 1991 when he asked that he "no longer be obliged to form part of any political association." The president, unanimously elected leader of the new political union, also invited the leaders of other political formations which had wanted him for their leader to become, so to speak, allies.

President To Lead Reform-Based National Unity Union

LD0602221493 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] In Alma Ata today at the Palace of Justice of the republic the constituent conference was held of the Union of National Unity [Soyuz Narodnogo Yedinstva] of Kazakhstan. Its main aim is the stabilization and progress of our common homeland of Kazakhstan. The Union was organized with the aim of supporting the consistent reforms of the president, directed at establishing a democratic society with a socially oriented market economy.

In the last few minutes we have learned that Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has been elected leader of the Union of National Unity. An appeal to the people of Kazakhstan was adopted.

Karaganda Broadcasters Resisting Encroachments on Freedom

MK0902132393 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 93 p 1

[Sergey Kozlov report: "Karaganda Television Center Surrounded by Militia and National Security Troopers. Journalists Have Declared Sit-In"]

[Text] The reason for the major furor was the firing of Karaganda Television and Radio Company Chairman Bakhydzhan Mukushev on 12 January this year. Of the 185 technical and creative personnel working for the company, only 15 supported the appointment of the new chairman, Uten Akhmetov; the others formed a strike committee and started fighting the dismissal. In fact, in the view of strike committee member Konstantin Demidov, chief editor of Karaganda Radio, the television center journalists and workers are fighting the blatant tyranny of Sherkhan Murtaza, recently appointed chairman of the "Kazakhstan" State Television and Radio Company, and Petr Nefedova, head of the Karaganda Oblast Administration.

"Mukushev has long been out of favor with the powers that be for being an 'uncontrollable' journalist," Yevgeniy Danilevskiy, deputy chairman of the Karaganda Oblast Soviet Human Rights Commission, said. "His objectivity, bravery, and honesty stuck in the throat of the head of administration and his entourage, which includes utterly odious people who have been discredited for a long time."

The official reason for Bakhydzhan Mukushev's dismissal was a report by the self-same Oblast Administration which accused the disgraced journalist of "destabilizing the situation in the oblast and displaying tendentiousness." No proof or facts were cited; nor were complaints about Mukushev from the War and Labor Veterans Council (formerly the Party Veterans Council) confirmed.

Sherkhan Murtaza was persuaded, with difficulty, to meet with representatives of the strike committee who had come to Alma-Ata for talks. But the actual talks proved fruitless. As did a visit which Murtaza made to Karaganda.

There is a growing view among television and radio journalists in the Republic of Kazakhstan that most of them will soon be left without a job. The point is that, Murtaza's opponents believe, the existence of oblast television and radio companies, which are to some extent economically and creatively independent, does not suit the "Kazakhstan" Television and Radio Company and therefore oblast television will simply cease broadcasting in its present form in the near future and the oblast television and radio companies will be transformed into easily controlled correspondents' offices. In the process, of course, a large proportion of the journalists will not been needed.

At the beginning of last week the Karaganda television workers' conflict with the leadership of the oblast and the "Kazakhstan" television and radio company assumed the nature of an almost physical confrontation. The strikers barricaded themselves in their building and broadcast half-hourly protests on television and radio against "the tyranny of the authorities and the infringement of freedom of speech." The militia and supporters of the new chairman then forced their way into the building.

The television center is now surrounded. The dismissals have naturally started with the activists—the members of the strike committee and their supporters. According to Oblast Administration Head Nefedov, it is necessary to get rid of at least half of the rebellious collective and use the money saved to raise the wages of those who remain. As for public opinion and the attitude of political parties, the strikers are actively supported by the Independent Trade Union of Karaganda Coal Field Miners—the most radical local miners' association. The Socialist Party, the Social Democrats, the Kazakhstan People's Congress Party, the Democratic Progress Party, and the republic Independent Trade Union Center have declared their support. But with the exception of the miners organization these associations are still weak and insufficiently organized to give the Karaganda television and radio journalists substantial assistance.

Karaganda TV Strike Continues

LD1002095593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Alma-Ata February 10 TASS—A strike at the Karaganda TV and Radio Company has continued for a second week now with protestors refusing to bow to the decision of the authorities to sack company chief Bakhydzhan Mukushev.

Journalists and technical personnel do not leave the studio demanding the repeal of the decision by the regional administration and the TV and radio company "Kazakhstan".

The authorities do not budge and insist that the disgraced leader leave the post, the collective accept the nomination of a new head and start fulfilling their duties without any preliminary conditions.

Every day of the conflict exacerbates differences between the sides. According to local news media, pressure on the strikers increases with every day. For example, acting procurator of the region formally warned that the strike was illegal. The newly appointed head of the company sacked some of the employees for refusing to accept his nomination. An attempt was made to start broadcasting with the help of the personnel that remains loyal to authorities.

Undeterred, the strikers keep increasing their demands. Here are some of them: To make the TV and radio company independent, to raise wages and salaries, and to stop censorship.

Nazarbayev Receives Jordanian Delegation

JN0902145193 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] [Jordanian] Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd today delivered a message from His Majesty King Husayn to the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on ways of bolstering relations between the two countries.

Talks were also held between the two delegations, during which an agreement was signed to establish diplomatic relations between Jordan and Kazakhstan. Ways of fostering relations in the various domains were also discussed.

Signs Diplomatic Protocol

LD0902201893 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Today, President Nursultan Nazarbayev received the government delegation of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, led by Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd, visiting in the capital of Kazakhstan. The delegation consists of 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport, and other officials. During the meeting, the president pointed out the coincidence of position adhered to by the leadership of both countries on many aspects of international relations. He expressed the wish that all the problems in the region where Arab states are located will be solved peacefully and in observance of the rights of both Palestinians and Israelis. For its part, Kazakhstan is ready to contribute, within its ability, to a settlement of all debatable issues.

Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed gratitude for the invitation to visit Jordan during his forthcoming scheduled

visit to a number of Arab states. Confidence has been expressed that the first official visit of a Jordanian delegation to Kazakhstan will serve as the beginning of a fruitful political and economic dialogue based on the principles of good-neighborliness and respect for international legal norms. It must be based on openness and the use of world political experience for the preservation of national traditions. Deputy Prime Minister Asygat Zhabagin, State Councillor Tulegen Zhukeyev, Nurtay Abykayev, head of the president's apparatus and cabinet minister, and Transport Minister Nematjan Issin Kirim took part in the talks. The protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan was signed.

Intellectuals Call For Stricter Control of Military

LD0802170993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 8 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 8 Feb—A large group of scientists and writers prominent in Kazakhstan has approached the president, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, the prime minister, and members of the republican parliament with a suggestion to exercise more strict control over the activities of the military-industrial complex. The policy pursued by Kazakhstan since its declaration of sovereignty has resulted in the overall area of military ranges on its territory being reduced from 17 million to a little over 5 million hectares. However, this has not weakened the orientation of the republic's intelligentsia towards a drastic rethinking of defense policy.

Two Major Oil, Gas Fields Discovered

MK0902115493 Moscow KOMMERSANT in Russian 8 Feb 93 p 2

[From the "Last Week" column]

[Text] According to Kazakhstan media, another two major oil and gas deposits—Darinskoye and Kamenskoye—have been discovered in Zapadno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast in Kazakhstan. Together with the Karachaganakskoye oil and gas condensate deposit that has been exploited for more than 10 years and is recognized as one of the world's largest, the newly discovered deposits, specialists believe, may put this region among the leading oil and gas producing provinces of the republic. The newly discovered deposits are located near the Karachaganakskoye field, which is beginning to be intensively developed with the aid of British and Italian partners experienced in refining oil and gas in the very location where they are extracted. Thus, if they wish and all agree, the partners can easily and considerably expand the scale of their joint operation.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev To Discuss Higher Energy Prices With Yeltsin

OW0902193193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 9 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources close to Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev told INTERFAX [IF] that Akayev is going to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on Wednesday [10 February] to discuss with him problems of Kyrgyz-Russian economic relations and the possibility of obtaining credits from Russia for the implementation of a program of emergency economic measures. As PB [Presidential Bulletin] has reported, the Kyrgyz leadership rejected the program of emergency measures drafted by the Economics and Finance Ministry, the minister resigning as a result.

At the Moscow meeting, Akayev will apparently bring up Russia's plans to raise the prices of its energy. He said earlier that, in case Russia went over to world prices, Kyrgyzstan would have to spend in 1993 more than 350 million rubles on oil and gas alone.

Since Akayev is leaving for Moscow, he will not attend the Kyrgyz leadership's meeting with senior officials from the republic's Interior Ministry scheduled for February 10. The meeting will, however, be attended by Vice-President Feliks Kulov.

IF Note: The Interior Ministry officials will, in particular, have to answer questions put by the head of Akayev's spokesman [as received] Kabay Karabekov in a recently published statement. President Akayev, Karabekov says, believes that the arrest by Uzbek security officers of Abdumannob Pulatov, leader of Uzbekistan's human rights movement, in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek on December 8 "has had a negative effect on the prestige of sovereign Kyrgyzstan in the eyes of the democratic nations of the world." Akayev demands that the Kyrgyz official who signed a permit for the arrest immediately resign. Otherwise, Karabekov says, the President "will dismiss all senior officials in the Interior Ministry."

Pulatov, recently released from custody under President Islam Karimov's amnesty decree, is at present in Moscow.

Tajikistan

Prime Minister Says Russian Planes Securing Airspace

OW0902213493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov declared in his exclusive interview with INTERFAX that since February 6 Russian aircraft are ensuring military patrolling of airspace above the Tajik-Afghan border.

According to the republic's head of government, this agreement was reached during the recent visit of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to Dushanbe. Russian aircraft will continue patrolling until restoration of Tajikistan's air defense service.

Speaking about possible threat of a spring offensive on the part of armed opposition, Tajik Prime Minister pointed out that resolutions of the Minsk meeting of CIS leaders and results of Russian Defense Minister P. Grachev's visit convinced the republic's government that a spring offensive will fail as preponderance of forces supporting the legal government is quite obvious, Abdullodzhanov said.

Official Statement Says Government Enjoys Support

LD1002103593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1014 GMT 10 Feb 93

["Tajik Government Enjoys Support, Official Statement"—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 10 TASS—"The legitimate government of Tajikistan is enjoying the support of the majority of the population of the republic and has enough forces and means to cut short any aggression on the part of opposition forces. The Tajik- Afghan border is being strengthened and four battalions of the CIS peace-keeping force will shortly arrive under an agreement reached by heads of state at the CIS meeting in Minsk," the official statement pointed out.

The statement, issued by the Committee for National Security, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence and other key government agencies, refutes rumours about the spring offensive by the armed opposition on Dushanbe with the aim of toppling the government and unleashing physical reprisals.

"Anti-government groups controlling several eastern regions of the republic and leaders of armed units in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan [as received] still cherish hopes of taking revenge and unleashing a new fratricidal war in Tajikistan," the document says. "The law-enforcement agencies have facts indicating that training camps, a sort of invasion bases into which Tajik refugees are being herded, are being created on the opposite bank near the Tajik-Afghan border with the support of some Afghan units that are not controlled by official authorities in Kabul. However all these plans are doomed to failure."

Government troops took under control a large part of the territory of the Ramit Gorge where armed opposition groups continue to operate, said Colonel Gennadiy Blinov, first deputy interior minister. "Measures have been taken to block roads to prevent a breakthrough of militants to Dushanbe. Local clashes occur between government troops and armed opposition units. According to the ministry, part of the militants, around 500 men, are ready to surrender arms, but are afraid of reprisals from field commanders. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The situation in Dushanbe is controlled by the Interior Ministry troops and the Russian 201st Motorised Infantry Division. Patrols have been intensified in the city to avoid armed provocations and terrorist acts, and a breakthrough by anti-government groups. All large residential districts and approaches to the Tajik capital are under control. Ten criminal gangs have been rendered harmless in the past few days.

Authorities Hold Talks in Afghanistan on Refugee Problem

OW0402124393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Official negotiations concerning Tajik nationals taking refuge in Afghanistan were to start in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, on Thursday [4 February]. According to various sources, there are still more than 50,000 Tajiks in Afghanistan, where they have been driven by the civil war in their country.

Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov told INTERFAX he was grateful to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani for his efforts to solve the refugee problem. Olimov said, however, that Afghanistan's northern provinces, where most refugees are staying, are not controlled by the government's armed forces.

Olimov said the Tajik Government is being helped by the Russian Foreign Ministry, Russia's consulate in Mazar-i- Sharif, the United Nations mission in Dushanbe, and the International Red Cross, which coordinates the humanitarian aid.

Rakhmonov Meets Afghan Consul General

LD0902151593 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Tajik Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov received Afghan Consul General [name indistinct] yesterday. During the meeting the two men discussed the return of Tajik refugees from Afghanistan. It was stated that both Tajikistan and Afghanistan will benefit from the earliest possible solution to this question.

Imamali Rakhmonov asked the consul general to convey his gratitute to Afghan head of state Burhanoddin Rabbani for the sincere words mentioned in his letter to Rakhmonov.

The Tajik minister of foreign affairs, Rashid Olimov, also participated in the meeting, which passed in a friendly atmosphere.

Afghan Fighters Aiding Opposition

OW0902170193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There are about 120 Afghan mojahedin fighting on the side of the opposition in Ramit Canyon in Tajikistan, reported Chairman of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmonov in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX. He added, "So far Tajikistan is not planning to send a note of protest to neighboring Afghanistan."

"We understand that citizens of the neighboring state fighting in Tajikistan do not represent Afghanistan's Government, and that the armed formations of Gulboddin Hekmatyar, who are not subordinate to (the Afghan Government), are in close collaboration with the narcotics mafia."

Delegation Begins Work With Refugees

OW0902180593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov told INTERFAX that a Tajik Government delegation has set to work on bringing Tajik refugees home from Afghanistan. He said 24,000 Tajik citizens were located in northern Afghanistan in the Mazar-i-Sharif region, where the delegation went. The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry reports that there are a total of about 50,000 Tajik refugees located in Afghanistan.

Olimov said the delegation's first meeting with refugees showed that 85-90% of them are ready to return home.

He noted the constructive position of Rashid Dustom, head of the Afghan Northern Provinces Administration, in attempting to help solve the problem.

The head of the Tajik Foreign Ministry stressed that the Tajik Government is prepared to guarantee the safe return of refugees to their homeland. In addition, Olimov said, a document is currently being prepared on granting privileges for refugees returning both from domestic regions and from Afghanistan.

Deputy Premier Comments on Economic Crisis

LD1002103993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1016 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By TIA "KHOVAR" for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe February 10 TASS—The Tajik government is concerned about the worsening economic crisis and the continuing production slump, Tajik News Agency KHOVAR was told by Abdujalil Samadov, deputy prime minister.

There are no objective conditions for halting this unwelcome process, he continued. The government of the republic is now rendering financial assistance to enterprises in order to cope with the grave crisis and takes steps to restore economic ties in the framework of the CIS.

Samadov expressed the hope that production slump may be stopped to a certain extent by autumn.

Speaking about foreign economic ties of Tajikistan, the deputy prime minister emphasised that many countries are ready to invest into the republic's national economy, particularly its mining industry. However foreign investors are concerned about the social and political situation in the country. Today, he said, the situation has improved practically in all regions and "we hope that durable business ties with the countries of the world community will be established in near future."

People's Front Chairman Holds News Conference

LD0602151893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1657 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Dushanbe, 5 Feb—During fighting against the opposition, People's Front formations in Tajikistan have captured about 70 foreign mercenaries. Front Chairman Sangak Safarov, who is here at the invitation of the republic's government, said this to journalists.

At a news conference in Kurgan-Tyube today, he said that, among the mercenaries were Afghan mojahedin, immigrants from the Transcaucasus and Baltic republics, and even citizens from African countries—students of higher educational establishments in the former USSR. Most of the mercenaries have been evicted from Tajik territory, and those guilty of specific crimes have been handed over to law enforcement bodies.

Replying to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question, Safarov said that the People's Front armed formations would lay the foundation for the Tajik National Army when it was established. According to him, the state cannot exist without its own armed forces. The Front leader confirmed that the formations had airplanes at their disposal, but they had not been used in the fighting.

Safarov, who is 64 years old and is popular in the republic, has called an opposition "lie" the words attributed to him that, after finishing off democrats in Tajikistan, the Front would help to get rid of them in Russia.

"We have stood up against Islamic fundamentalists in order to avoid the development of events following the Afghan example," Safarov said; "we are in favor of creating an independent democratic republic that will unite all the nationalities."

During a trip around Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, journalists of the leading media were shown the local villages in which not a single house had been left intact after last summer's fighting. They got acquainted with the situation in the regions, where hepatitis is raging. In particular, about 4,000 people were hit by this grave disease in Farkhar Rayon. Thanks to the arrival of qualified doctors and medicines, it has been possible to reduce the death rate considerably. The cause of the epidemic was the distribution of grain that had not been cleared of weeds. This grain has now been withdrawn.

Rakhmonov Meets With Iranian Ambassador

LD1002093593 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0100 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Yesterday, Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, received 'Ali Ashraf Mojtahed-Shabestari, extraordinary and plenpotentiary ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tajikistan. During the talks, views were expressed on recent relations between the two states. Imamali Rakhmonov stressed that Tajikistan will develop friendly relations with Iran on the basis of signed official state documents. He also congratulated the people of Iran on their national celebration—the 14th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Rakhmonov expressed his gratitude to the leadership of Iran for giving humanitarian aid to the Tajik people at a difficult time when they were suffering a great deal. The ambassador of Iran said that the volume of humanitarian aid would be increased. Rakhmonov, at the end of the talks, expressed his sympathy on behalf of the leadership of the republic to the families and relatives of people who had lost their lives in the airline disaster. Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere and were attended by Tajikistan Foreign Minister Olimov.

Leaders Attend Anniversary Reception

LD1002144993 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Today, 'Ali Ashraf Mojtahed-Shabestari, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Iran, held a reception on the occasion of the national festival of his country - the 14th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. Present at the reception were Imamali Rahmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan, members of the government of Tajikistan, representatives of public organizations of the republic and Iranian diplomats. Shabesteri and Rahmonov delivered speeches. The ambassador of Iran [words indistinct] his country for relations with fraternal Tajikistan.

In his speech the leader of the state of Tajikistan stressed that the present government of Tajikistan is making every effort to implement the previously signed bilateral agreements and to develop relations beneficial for both sides. Imamali Rakhmonov thanked the people and Government of Iran for their help to the Tajik people at this difficult time.

The reception was held in a sincere and friendly atmosphere.

Security Chief Against 'Large-Scale Bloodshed'

PM1002134193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 1

[Igor Lenskiy report under the rubric "From the Scene of Events": "Girls Being Exchanged for Assault Rifles"]

[Text] Dushanbe—"Fundamentalist gunmen in Afghanistan are exchanging two assault rifles for one good looking girl seized on the Tajik bank of the Panj River. Vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, carpets, and gold also convert well into weapons," Saidamir Zukhurov, chairman of the Committee for National Security, explained.

The area controlled by the Islamists is shrinking like the wild ass's skin. Nevertheless, the four rayons of the Garm mountain range and the Ramit ravine are still inaccessible to the legitimate government. The unique topographic relief of the area has been helping some 700-800 gunmen to maintain its defense for three months running.

"But all these people are our brothers, our relatives, our fellow countrymen, even though they are on the wrong track," Zukhurov went on. "And therefore we do not want large-scale bloodshed. We are holding talks. Yesterday part of the detachment apparently agreed to give up its weapons."

Only the judgment of their own conscience awaits the Islamists who were not organizers of mass crimes. At the same time, People's Front Leader Sangak Safarov has arrested six of his Kulyab fellow-countrymen in Kofarnikhon for quite specific offenses such as pillaging, robbery, and rape. They are now in the Ministry of Internal Affairs Investigation Prison together with those who are being charged with persecuting the Badashkhan people.

...It is not by chance that an Afghan helicopter has appeared in the sky above Garm. There have been reports of renewed activity by the fundamentalists, scheduled for the spring.

"We are also getting ready," the security official said, narrowing his eyes.

Armenia

Russian Troops To Help Ensure Protection of Borders

NC0902194793 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Russian and Armenian Defense Ministries signed an agreement regulating the status of the Russian (?Army unit) stationed in Armenia. According to the agreement, Russian troops, together with the Armenian Armed Forces, will ensure the protection and inviolability of the former Soviet Union's borders, which have now become Armenia's international borders. Armenia has agreed to meet some of the expenses of the Russian troops.

Involvement Denied in Destruction of Bridge in Azerbaijan

OW0902170693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia has denied an Azeri accusation that it was involved in the 8 February demolition of a bridge in the Kazakh region of Azerbaijan.

A statement released on Tuesday [9 February] by the press service of the Armenian president points out that such accusations not only do not correspond with reality, but also contradict the basic standards of common sense. Armenia, it stated, "is in no way interested in interrupting railway service to the Kazakh region along a bridge to Georgia, since certain shipments to Armenia are also sent along this route."

On Monday, the Azeri Defense Ministry accused the Armenian leadership of having "adopted a policy of state terrorism."

Karabakh Fighters Maintain Advance on Azeri Areas

NC0902194593 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1830 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites self-defense forces headquarters as saying that battles were continuing in the north of Mardakertskiy Rayon last night and this morning.

Contrary to the Azerbaijani side's claims, particularly Azerbaijani Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov's statement that the Azerbaijani National Army had retaken four of the lost villages and that the Armenian formations are now under siege, the freedom fighters of Nagorno-Karabakh are maintaining their advance. Armed Azerbaijani formations are abandoning their positions in a panic, leaving their dead and military hardware on the battlefield.

The armed Azerbaijani formations have been in a difficult situation during the latest fighting, as evidenced by the fact that the Azerbaijani interior and defense ministers and a number of high-ranking Army commanders have arrived in the zone of operations.

The self-defense forces of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] are in control of the situation along the Lachin humanitarian corridor. Road transportation along the Lachin road is continuing unimpeded.

The Azerbaijani armed formations deployed at the military bases in Agdamskiy Rayon have been subjecting villages and the town of Askeran in Askeranskiy Rayon to long-range artillery and Grad rocket fire since this morning. The NKR self-defense forces took measures to silence the enemy's firing positions.

The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service has informed ARMENPRES that the situation on Armenia's borders last night and today was relatively calm.

The situation in Araratskiy Rayon, which borders Nakhichevan, has been relatively calm for over a month. Life is gradually returning to normal in the border villages of Yeraskhavan, Sevakavan and Armash. Residents there are more concerned with their daily problems than with the conflict. The highway linking Ararat valley with Vaykskiy Rayon and Zangezur region is functioning unimpeded. Wine and [words indistinct] enterprises have resumed work. The Yerevan-Yeraskhavan commuter train goes between Yerevan and the border three times a day.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Disputes Armenian Claims of Gains

NC0902191693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

The Armenian president is attempting to strengthen his political position by gaining military victories in Karabakh whenever he feels his throne is threatened. The Armenian leadership and foreign forces that want to help Levon Ter-Petrosyan keep his position created the conditions the Armenian expeditionary corps units needed to launch a wide-scale attack in northern Karabakh a few days ago. The Azerbaijan Armed Forces have mobilized their units to force the enemy to retreat. Bloody clashes are currently taking place for the heights near [placename indistinct], Pogosagomer, Chldran, and Mekhmana.

The Azerbaijani forces fully control the strategically important highway between Agdere and Kel'badzhar. The Armenian side's claim that it controls that highway is unfounded.

The enemy units launched an attack in the Agdamskiy Rayon battlefront today. Armenian military forces attacked Shilli and (Ergi) at 0845 this morning. A wave of artillery shelling preceded their attack. The enemy units captured two of our military positions in (Ergi) at about noon but were unable to hold them. The attack on (Ergi) was completely rebuffed in the afternoon. The two sides suffered casualties and lost several military vehicles. The Armenian attack on Shilli was also checked.

The Armenian units carried out combat operations in Khodzhavendskiy Rayon. However, they were blocked and forced to retreat by the Azerbaijan National Army units.

The Azerbaijani units have halted the enemy attacks on all battlefronts and launched counterattacks. Thanks to the efforts of our fighters, Gazydere, Yukhary Dzhidzhimli, and Ashagy Dzhidzhimli in Lachinskiy Rayon were liberated from Armenian occupation in the past few days. Our troops fully control these areas now.

Armenia Reportedly Planning Large-Scale Offensive

LD0902163293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1601 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Baku February 9 TASS—Armenian troops are set to launch a large-scale offensive against Azerbaijani forces along the whole front line, the AZERTAC News Agency said on Tuesday [9 February], quoting reports from the battle zone.

The severest fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops is continuing in the north, according to the Analytical Centre of the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry. Armenian militants are still holding four out of seven villages they captured between February 5-6. Last night, they attacked the village of Mekhmana, but met fierce resistance and were thrown back, the centre said.

Early on Tuesday, Armenian troops shelled the villages of Shelli, Mrzili and other villages in the Agdam district of Azerbaijan. They also attacked the village of Arysh in the Fizuli district and entered the Agdzhabedi district of Azerbaijan, the report said.

Troops Reportedly Cross Border

LD0902182693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1805 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Gekchekkhanum Tagiyeva for TASS]

[Text] Baku February 9 TASS—According to information of the Azeri Defence Ministry, Armenian infantry units totalling about 200 people with support of two helicopters trespassed the republican state border at 16:30 today from the side of the Armenian Vardenis region in direction of the Zeilik settlement of the Azeri Kelbadzhar region.

Sabotaged Train Bridge Partially Repaired

LD0902165693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1427 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondents Ziyadkhan Gasanov and Alla Baula for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 9 Feb—Rail traffic has been partially restored over the bridge in Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy Rayon that was blown up yesterday, according to Vakhid Akhmedov, first deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan, who informed an AZERTAC correspondent of this upon his return from the scene. Vakhid Akhmedov believes that the explosion occurred as a result of sabotage, as the remains of an explosive device which have been found testify. He also reported that the damage from the explosion amounts to about 100 million rubles.

Elchibey, Delegation Visit Gendzha City

NC0902221893 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey visited Gendzha yesterday and met with Gendzha City Executive Authority officials, law enforcement officials, and leaders of the Azerbaijan People's Front branch in Gendzha. The city's problems, the question of reestablishing stability, law, and order, and the restoration of work in the establishments were discussed. President Elchibey addressed the meeting on the tasks related to the settlement of Gendzha's social, political, and economic problems. He stressed that being successful in state construction work depends on the establishment of a serious management system.

President Elchibey met with leading military and administrative officials in Gendzha Rayon. The situation in the battlefronts was also discussed.

Elchibey was accompanied on his visit by State Adviser Arif Gadzhiyev, Presidential Adviser Nadzhaf Nadzhafov, Procurator General Ihtiyar Shirinov, Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev, Minister of National Security Sadvettin Akhmedov, and Minister of Internal Affairs Iskender Khamidov.

Parliament Deputy Speaker Meets Russia's Abdulatipov

LD0902151893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondents Alla Baula and Ziyadkhan Gasanov]

[Text] Baku February 9 TASS—Chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ramazan Abdulatipov met First Vice-Speaker of the Azeri Parliament Tamerlan Karayev late in the evening of February 8, it was learned from well-informed sources here. Abdulatipov stopped over in Baku en route from Tehran to Moscow.

Their talk focused mainly on the development of interparliamentary relations between Azerbaijan and Russia. Karayev and Abdulatipov discussed the work of the Russian Supreme Soviet's Commission on Relations with Azerbaijan, which recently visited Baku. Agreement was reached to organise shortly a reply visit to Moscow of a similar commission from the Azeri parliament. The sides stressed the importance they both attach to the ratification of the Russo-Azeri Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Security.

AZERTAC was told at the press centre of the Azeri Supreme Soviet that Abdulatipov and Karayev also exchanged views on the forthcoming visit to Azerbaijan of a delegation from Dagestan, during which it is planned to sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two republics.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Comments on Russian Troops, Azerbaijan Trip

OW0902210093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As long as Georgia does not have her own regular army, the presence of Russian troops, above all frontier guards, in the country is justifiable, Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian Parliament thinks.

"The demands made by some political parties that the Russian troops be pulled out immediately are not to be taken seriously," said he in an interview to Georgian radio. Shevardnadze noted that if the parties continue trying to create an unfavorable environment for the Russian-Georgian negotiations on military matters, "the people will probably have to be consulted and a referendum held on the presence of Russian troops in the Republic."

Speaking on the results of his Baku visit on February 3, Shevardnadze said that Azerbaijan "is an economic partner on whom Georgia is heavily dependent as well as a neighbor.... Success of numerous joint Georgian-Iranian economic projects will be largely contingent on Azerbaijan's posture."

Armed Groups Attack Russian Army Convoy, Facilities

LD1002144793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1313 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 10 Feb—Subunits of the republican Defense Ministry, formally subordinate to the head of the Georgian state, carried out a number of attacks on the military facilities and subunits of the Russian Army.

The press center of the Russian group of troops in the Transcaucasus reported today that a transport comvoy consisting of two fuel tanker trucks, the car of the unit commander, and an armored personnel carrier, came under armed attack on 9 February. It was blocked at a post of the state traffic inspectorate not far from Tbilisi. The Georgian men carrying sub-machine gunns made the Russian servicemen surrender their weapons, and the unit commander's car was put out of action by aimed fire. Then they stole the armored personnel carrier and the tanker trucks.

A few hours later, some 40 men armed with machine guns, who introduced themselves as fighters of the first brigade of Georgia's Armed Forces, burst into the warehouses of clothing and related gear belonging to the Russian group of forces, broke open the storehouses and loaded the contents into two Kam-AZ heavy goods vehicles. Jemal Chumburidze, a deputy defense minister of Georgia, who was summoned to the scene, managed, with some difficulty, to force his subordinates to leave; the press center of the Russian troops claims that the latter were drunk. And yet, they still took the property.

According to the press center, the past day was also marked by the unauthorized seizure of apartments in Tbilisi belonging to Russian servicemen. In the past two months, as many as 40 illegal actions of that kind have been perpetrated by Georgian fighters.

Shevardnadze Denies Force Deployment in Adzharia

OW0902144293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1428 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to his press secretary Revaz Edgadze, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has denied the Russian media's reports to the effect that the Georgian leadership is planning to deploy its troops in Adzharia, an autonomous republic within Georgia.

Edgadze said the Georgian government has been informed that an attack is being planned on Russian forces stationed in Adzharia and is taking steps to prevent this. Shevardnadze is going to make a special statement on this, the press secretary said.

Fighting Continues in Gumista, Ochamchira Rayon

LD0902222993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By correspondent F. Avidzba from Abkhazia; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] On the Gumista section of the front in Abkhazia, small-arms and machine-gun fire have continued from both sides. Since this morning the Georgian side has also been using artillery.

In Ochamchira rayon an attack was launched during which the Georgian troops tried to eliminate Abkhazian partisans' bases on several sections of the front. The attack was repulsed by the Abkhazian partisans. There were losses on both sides during the battles.

Renewed Shelling in Sukhumi; Cutter Said Sunk

OW1002110693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The city of Sukhumi was once again subjected to artillery fire by Abkhazian units Tuesday [9 February] evening, INTERFAX was informed by the Georgian Defense Ministry's press center. First reports say that there have been no casualties. Several buildings have been damaged.

Abkhazia's defense ministry in Gudauta claims that the shelling was carried out by Georgian positions alone on the city's boundaries and directed at the Abkhazian positions themselves.

Unconfirmed information has been received from the defense ministry that early on February 10 the Abkhazian sunk one of two Georgian cutters which had sailed close to the shore near Gudauta and bombarded a Russian military aerodrome.

Second Stage of Russian Aid to Tkvarcheli in Question

LD1002091193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0658 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Schegoleva]

[Text] Sochi February 10 TASS—134 tonnes of food were delivered by Russian helicopters during the first stage of aid to the town of Tkvarcheli in Abkhazia, but the continuation of the mission is in question as Abkhazia and Georgia advanced conditions inadmissible for Russia.

A total of 1,655 people, including 215 Georgians, 851 Abkhazians, 353 Russians and 236 persons of other nationalities, were evacuated from the mountainous town where the threat of hunger appeared after it was cut off from the rest of the world by the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, a representative of the Russian State Committee for Emergencies told a press conference late on Tuesday.

Sergey Kudinov added that the continuation of the mission depends on the "political will of all parties participating in it." However, Georgia demanded that Russian helicopters also evacuate Georgians from the towns of Gagra and Gudauta which are under Abkhazian control, while Abkhazia wants that Abkhazians be evacuated from Sukhumi which is controlled by Georgian forces. "Such statements doubt the possibility of carrying out the second stage (of the mission). The Russian side considers the demands inadmissible," Kudinov said.

U.N. representative Peer Erik Kerstreom regretted that Abkhazia and Georgia "tried to use civilians (of the town) for solving political issues," but added that the mission helped promote trust between the warring sides which is a good basis for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

He called on Georgia and Abkhazia to refrain from advancing conditions for the second stage of humanitarian aid deliveries to Tkvarcheli and said that the third U.N. mission is planned to arrive in the zone of conflict to monitor the ceasefire. The U.N. military observers are ready to begin fulfilling the task in two weeks, the representative said, adding that the United Nations should increase its role in settling the conflict.

Armenian Delegation Arrives for Talks on Security

OW0902123493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1129 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation from Armenia which included senior officials from the security, railroad, and gas transportation departments arrived in Tbilisi on 8 February. The goal of the visit is to discuss with their Georgian counterparts the security of shipments belonging to Armenia. On Tuesday, the delegates will meet with representatives from the Georgian government.

In January, unidentified persons blew up a gas pipeline in the Marneul region of Georgia through which gas shipments to Armenia flowed. As a result, Armenia was plunged into a desperate energy crisis which closed practically all of the republic's enterprises. The delivery of fuel was eventually restored, though the gas reaching Armenia through temporary channels is still insufficient to the country's needs.

Story on Military Cooperation With Iran Denied

PM1002100593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 7

[Letter in the "International Department Mailbag" section from the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy Press Department: "Iranian Embassy Denial"]

[Text] In the Name of Allah!

On 21 January 1993 IZVESTIYA (no. 11) published an article entitled "Shevardnadze Is Trying To Establish Economic and Military Cooperation With Iran," signed by Maksim Yusin. Without citing reliable sources, the

author writes that one aim of Mr. Shevardnadze's trip to Iran was to set up military cooperation.

The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow rejects this assertion and stresses that during Mr. Shevardnadze's visit to Iran no agreement was reached on military cooperation and that this matter was not included on the agenda of the talks.

[Signed] The Press Department of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Gamsakhurdia To Leave Chechnya To Live Abroad

LD0802220593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The IPRINDA agency reports that it has learned from unofficial sources close to the leadership of Chechnya that Georgian ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia will leave Chechnya in the near future for good. According to certain information, he will leave to reside permanently in a western country.

Estonia

Minister Expresses Concern Over Remaining Russian Troops

OW0802170493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1645 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Defense Minister Hain Rebas stated in an interview with the newspaper HOMMIKULEHT that over 9,000 Russian soldiers are still in the republic. In the minister's opinion, it is not so much the number of servicemen that is important, but rather the fact that there are "skeleton units" in Estonia which, if necessary, could be quickly staffed and deployed.

Rebas called the 144th Motor Rifle Division, which is deployed in Tallinn, "a totally offensive detachment." The minister also pointed out that other such attack units are based not far from the Estonian border, for instance the paratroop division near Pskov, which he said could invade Estonia on 16 minutes' notice.

The minister was particularly concerned about the maintenance of Russian radio listening posts in Estonia. "They have the ability," asserted the minister, "to listen in on any conversation going on in the country."

Russia To Send Additional Military Contingent

OW1002115893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1132 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During talks with Estonian President Lennart Meri on Tuesday [9 February], Commander of Russia's North-Western army group, Colonel-General Leonid Mayorov spoke about the necessity to send an additional contingent of Russian servicemen to Estonia "in order to accelerate the withdrawal of the Russian military equipment and to strengthen the security of arms depots".

Estonia gave no answer to the Russian side. The Estonian president's press service reports that a special working group is likely to be set up to consider this and other questions pertaining to the withdrawal of the Russian troops. During the talks, the two parties expressed the conviction that the Russian and Estonian military commanders must actively cooperate.

During the talks with the Estonian president, General Mayorov also sought permission to hold target practice in Estonia. To quote the General Mayorov, no target practice has been held in the Baltic states over the past 12 months, which tells negatively on the troops' combat readiness.

General Mayorov turned down Estonia's proposal that the schedule of withdrawal be coordinated and that arms depots be guarded jointly by Russian and Estonian servicemen.

Prime Minister Calls Russian Army Units 'Bedrock of Crime'

OW0902214693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1942 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the past two months, not a single Russian soldier has been brought to Estonian soil, Juuri Luik, minister in the Estonian government in charge of Estonia's talks with Russia, said at a press conference in Tallinn on Tuesday [9 February].

Juuri Luik and Prime Minister Mart Laar rejected the opposition's accusations against the Estonian government for its allegedly "softening" approach to Russia to the extent that it allowed Russia to bring a team of its personnel to the territory of the republic for assisting in troops withdrawal. Meanwhile, Mr. Luik characterized as "unrealistic" the centrists' demand that the Russian troops complete their withdrawal from Tallinn within the next month.

Prime Minister Mart Laar called for tightening control over the Russian Army units stationed in Estonia. "They have turned into a bedrock of crime, first and foremost, organized crime, and the Estonian side will not be impartially observing the developments," the Estonian head of government said.

Defense Official Calls For Monitoring Russian Forces

LD0902165393 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Edgar Savisaar [parliamentary deputy speaker] said at the Center Faction's news conference yesterday that more Russian soldiers have been brought into Estonia than publicly acknowledged, and with the knowledge of both the defense minister and the premier. Feliks Kaasik today requested a comment from Rein Helme, chairman of the parliamentary Defense Commission. [passage omitted]

[Begin Helme recording] In my opinion the Center Faction's statement is irresponsible, it confuses the public, and it is largely inaccurate. Compared with how things stood in the morning I have now been collecting some information and can claim confidently that yes, evidently there has been an influx of Russian troops. Evidently also the defense minister was consulted in this respect. It is not certain that he was given the best advice, but to make a scapegoat of former Defense Ministry adviser Elmo Priks is also unfair.

But what is most important about this scandal? It demonstrates once again that we do not have any control over the movements of the Russian troops here. It is not at issue whether 250 or 1,000 men are brought in. It does not matter. What is important is that all necessary

structures for the Russian troops to be put into action, and to crush us if necessary, are in existence on Estonian territory.

To monitor Russian troop movements and to genuinely achieve serious results so that they really leave in accordance with strict deadlines, we must seek to establish international monitoring even more actively and at the top international level - with results to be made public all along - even at Paldiski, even at those airfields where Kaitseliit patrols are unable to provide such a thorough survey of what is actually happening.

I intend to raise this issue definitely at the North Atlantic Assembly conference this week: to see how the West could assist us with establishing effective monitoring of this kind.

From this scandal we should acknowledge that monitoring is inadequate and we are incapable of introducing such monitoring. I do not see our foreign policy changing, and our delegation which has been holding talks with the Russians at Nakhabino is untainted. The Russian troops, however, have repeatedly proposed to us a certain hidden rotation option in respect of their troop numbers. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Denies Encouraging Smuggling From Russia

WS0802130093 Tallinn BNS in English 0700 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 05, BNS—The Estonian Foreign Ministry in a statement on Friday [5 February] resolutely denied allegations by the Russian media and state officials of Estonia encouraging the smuggling of nonferrous metals from Russia.

Such accusations can only be regarded as a justification to bad work by the Russian customs, the statement says.

The head of the St. Petersburg department of the Russian Security Ministry, Viktor Cherkesov, at a press conference on Thursday [4 February] claimed it was more profitable for Estonia to sell the metals illegally brought into the country on to the West than to cooperate with Russians in the prevention of illegal transports.

"The Estonian authorities have never refused from working closely with the Russian authorities," the statement says, adding that Estonia is deeply worried about the increase in international crime and is vitally interested in stopping the illegal transport of goods. But the document also says Estonia "unfortunately has not enough money, people, and equipment to control its state and customs borders".

Paper Claims Israel, West Supplying Army

PM0902163593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by Modris Ziyeminsh and Valeriy Gromak: "Estonia Building Armed Forces, Counting On Western Help"]

[Text] Aid granted solely by Israel totals more than $50 million. Apart from small arms, Israel will probably be supplying air defense systems too.

Meanwhile a shipload of uniforms, communications equipment, and means of transport has arrived in the port of Tallinn from France. A similar seaborne cargo is expected from Germany in mid-February. Sweden and Finland have pledged to train officers for Estonia.

Investigation Exposes Arms Deals Irregularities

LD0802155293 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The State Control's department of state-owned enterprises has discovered serious irregularities with the monies set aside from the state budget for arms purchases.

On 28 May last year, the Estonian Government allocated to the Estonian defense forces a substantial sum of money from its reserve fund for an arms purchase. The defense forces' general staff who handled the finances had not requested the money, because three-quarters of the monies set aside for the first half of 1992 had not yet been used.

Rein Kanter, director general of the State Resources Center state-owned enterprise, allowed this extra money to be spent on smoked sprats. They were to be exchanged for arms in a barter deal. For the purchase of smoked sprats he concluded an agreement with the Haljas cooperative. The agreement was endorsed by Toomas Puura, the then deputy defense minister who was dismissed from his post in December for loss of confidence. Haljas Chairman (?Movsun Mekhdiyev) bought the sprats from (?Ekton) fisheries enterprise. Through a straightforward deal, Haljas made 18.6 million rubles from the state's money.

The sprats have still not been exchanged for arms but are being kept in the Tapa warehouse of Tarl, a branch of the State Resources Center. Because there were fewer cans of sprats than the agreed 2 million and some of them have been squashed, 10,500 kroons has been lost, which has not been made up.

Meanwhile, Tarl has sent the defense forces' general staff bills to the value of 280,000 kroons for the receipt of the cans, for loading, and storage.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Return From Finland

LD0802145693 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mart Laar returned tonight from a visit to Finland. At the airport he made the following comment on the results of his visit:

[Begin Laar recording] Mainly I attended a congress of the leaders of the Nordic countries' conservative parties. A declaration concerning Estonia was also adopted—that is a whole declaration with large chunks of it devoted to the Baltic countries, and Estonia in particular, with whom the Nordic countries have recently developed very good cooperation, at the level of conservative parties. Estonia's participation in this event for the first time is a good example of this. [passage omitted]

The problem of illegal Kurdish immigration was naturally very much in the foreground in Finland, and was discussed in several places. Naturally, the matter has also been raised in various ways in the Finnish press. The situation with the Kurds is reported in various ways, depending on how the reporter wanted to portray it. So there is not just a single report on this matter in the Finnish press. But to deal with the issue constructively, the conference of Nordic countries' conservative party leaders discussed what could be done jointly to enable Estonia to close its borders more firmly.

The answer is: In order that such incidents not be repeated—and it is our firm policy that they should not to be repeated—the only solution here is to strengthen Estonia's borders and border guards both materially and organizationally. There is no alternative. At the same time, we must punish all these people who run illegal (?smuggling operations). [end recording]

Shippers Deny Blame for Resale of Swedish Oil Sent as Aid

PM0802154393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Feb 93 pp 1, 2

[Leonid Levitskiy report: "Fuel Donated by Sweden Sold in Germany"]

[Text] Tallinn—The Swedish Government has suspended all humanitarian aid to Estonia until the completion of an investigation into the embezzlement of fuel donated by it. Estonia has probably never before known such a scandal. The fuel affair has set the republic in turmoil—this assessment has already been made at a government news conference.

Sweden, which generously and consistently helps Estonia, allocated 10 million (Swedish) kronor to provide transport diesel fuel. The Norwegian Statoil firm purchased it from the Danish Statoil. Two tankers arrived in Tallinn 21 January. One was unloaded at once. Approximately 200 tonnes more fuel was pumped into the second tanker and sent to Hamburg, where it was sold.

It would not have mattered—lots of fuel, metal, and timber is reexported via Estonia. But, on returning home, the crew of the Swedish tanker Avior talked about what had happened to the gift. The indignant Swedes' reaction was understandable. The scandal spread to Estonia. Its government reacted quickly and impetuously. Power Engineering Minister Arvo Niitenberg, a Canadian citizen, gave the details at a news conference. The recipient of the high-quality winter fuel—the "Estontoplivo" state enterprise—had readdressed it to purchasers abroad. It had supplied its own transport workers with diesel fuel produced in Azerbaijan. Experts gave assurances that the tangible price difference was accounted for by differences in quality. The authors' emolument had amounted to a few million Estonian kroons.

A. Niitenberg was most indignant that money had been taken from the state treasury for the imaginary discharge of 4,000 tonnes, and at a rate of $7 per tonne. Adding to what the power engineering minister had said, Internal Affairs Minister Lagle Parek reported on measures already taken. An investigative group of representatives of criminal and economic police and Interpol has been set up. It really is an international operation—firms from six countries are involved to one degree or another. As the government press service reported later, two leading employees of the Infast firm and the Russian-Swedish Skantrans enterprise have been arrested—they "have a permit for permanent residence in Estonia but are not Estonian citizens."

Outraged Infast staff also held a news conference. General Director A. Chulets, who was not involved in the tanker epic, took journalists aback with his sincerity, logic, and facts. First of all, Skantrans was not expecting the tankers. What is more, it had refused to receive them owing to a shortage of free facilities. Second, only "Estontoplivo," as the owner, could readdress the fuel. And it had done so. A deliberate castling move was executed involving "Estontoplivo," the railroad, and "Estimpex." The latter firm had tanks standing idle containing Azerbaijani diesel fuel which had been sold "on the side." The tank contents went to Estonian consumers, and the tanker to Germany. This was supposedly done in order to avoid fines for the having ship standing idle.

"It was the responsibility of Infast and Skantrans to attend to the ship. It is not our concern to whom the fuel was sold or for how much, whether there was a difference in price, and who pocketed the difference," Chulets declared.

The new facts have somewhat muffled the accusatory spirit of the articles about the misappropriation of the diesel fuel. Did it happen, and where, in that case, were the customs officials looking? Why have specialists of the service firms ended up in detention, and not those who received, exchanged, and sold the fuel? Is this not because the "scapegoats"—the people and organizations—have a residence permit but do not have citizenship?

The gasoline, diesel, and fuel oil business is so profitable and so divided up among clans that attempts by state organs to get to the bottom of it have never led anywhere. Many commentators believe that this time too the initiators and organizers of the deal will not have to

wipe drops of diesel fuel off their expensive European suits. As previously, the thunder and lightning will strike the people who carried it out.

Central Bank Deputy Chairman on Banking Crisis

PM0902174693 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 5 Feb 93 p C 3

[Report on interview with Estonian Central Bank deputy chairman Bo Kragh by Mert Kubu in Tallinn; date not given]

[Text] Tallinn—The Estonian banking crisis is serious, but compared with the banking system in Russia, Estonia is a Sunday school picnic. This is the view of Estonian Central Bank deputy chairman Bo Kragh, one of whose tasks is to extract the $80 million which Russia owes Estonia.

At the present moment Bo Kragh is being looked after at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm after a serious car accident in Estonia. However, he is reported to be on the mend. This interview with Kragh was held before the accident.

Bo Kragh has his office on the sixth floor of the tall building which formerly housed the socialist planning committee in Tallinn. Previously it stood on the street called Komsomol Street. Now it is has been rechristened Great America Street.

It is a terrible piece of construction. Bo Kragh sits behind his desk with this sheepskin coat on. When the wind blows it is a case of hanging on to his office chair so that he is not carried away by the draft.

Kragh has been lent by Handelsbanken to Eesti Pank, the central bank. Handelsbanken pays his salary, the Estonians provide him with an official car and chauffeur. He lives in the government hotel in the old town. Every other week he travels home to Sweden.

[Kubu] Why does the Estonian central bank not keep a better rein on all of Estonia's banks that are on the verge of bankruptcy?

[Kragh] Of course I can admit that there has been some confusion. But what would the banking system in Sweden, Norway, or Finland look like if everyone who had some education in market economics had fled into exile? If we had lived in a legal jungle? If we did not have governments prepared to guarantee the funds of depositors? Several major banks in the Nordic area have been saved by their governments.

All economic training here in Estonia before 1990 was nonsense.

[Kubu] Do the Estonians listen to your advice about how to get out of this banking mess?

[Kragh] There are three of us deputy chairmen of Eesti Pank. My area of responsibility is dealing with the fourteen other former republics of the former Soviet empire, mostly with Russia, however. [Kragh ends]

Kragh is the only member of the leadership of the Estonian central bank with Western banking training and also long experience.

[Kubu] Does no one ask your advice when Estonia is shaken by its bank crises? You have said yourself in the Estonian press that more bankruptcies are on their way.

[Kragh] Other people deal with these things. I am most often away on trips.

[Kubu] And how are things with the Russian banks?

[Kragh] Tough measures are being taken. The mafia has also become involved in the banking system. It is there that KGB funds have been privatized—affairs that cannot stand the light of day. Bank directors could, quite literally, find themselves encased in cement blocks in the Volga river. Compared with the banking system in Russia, Estonia is a real Sunday school picnic.

But, of course, there are banks over there which work. You can suddenly find yourself talking to surprisingly knowledgeable bankers in Alma Ata or some other distant spot.

[Kubu] What do you do in Alma Ata, Minsk, Kiev, or Vilnius?

[Kragh] Negotiate. Reach agreements between Eesti Pank and the other countries' central banks. I am also an adviser to the Latvian Government and consequently travel to Riga frequently. [Kragh ends]

Estonia is unable to extract the $80 million which are frozen in Russian banks. At the same time Eesti Pank has mountains of old Russian rubles, between 2 and 3 billion, money the bank received when Estonia went over to the Estonian kroon.

[Kubu] Why do you not sell these rubles on the stock exchange in Moscow? That would produce at least $5 to $6 million.

[Kragh] We have talked about it. I have thought about it a lot, but I cannot give an answer.

[Kubu] Where do you keep your ruble mountain?

[Kragh] In bank vaults, scattered through various locations in Estonia. All under guard.

Details of 1993 State Budget Reported

LD0902152693 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The parliament today endorsed the 1993 state budget for the Republic of Estonia, with 63 votes in favor, 17 against, and seven abstentions. The state budget was endorsed at 3.704 billion kroons, with most of it—1.8 billion—to be generated as revenue from the sales tax. The revenue from business taxes will amount

to 838 million kroons, from excise duties to 300 million, and from local budgets to 285 million. Totals for the funds financed from the budget were also endorsed.

Prime Minister Denies Agricultural Trade Barriers Planned

OW0802210993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1834 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian government does not plan to protect the domestic agricultural market by establishing customs barriers. Prime Minister Mart Laar announced this Monday [8 February] at the information hour of the Estonian State Assembly.

He raised the issue in response to demands from several agrarian associations to protect the republic's domestic market from penetration by cheaper agricultural products produced abroad and undermining, thus, the competitiveness of domestic products.

"The heat of this issue is already declining now," the head of government said.

He claimed that agricultural workers had already displayed their ability to compete with foreign producers. If only a few months ago the consumer preferred cheaper, imported butter, now there is no longer a problem in overstocking this product through domestic production.

Laar said the government was optimistic about the sowing campaign. They have a seed fund, but there are problems with fuel and lubricant materials. To resolve these problems they will have to use credit. Meanwhile, Estonia has not yet paid off its loans from the last agricultural year.

The prime minister believes the government's main tasks in the agricultural sector are to speed up land and agricultural reforms and form the necessary legislative basis for this.

"There are no obstacles. Before the summer vacation the state assembly will receive for examination all bills necessary for this," pledged the head of government.

Agricultural, Industrial Output Decline in 1992

OW0702174393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1610 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Last year's farm production ran at a cost of 139 million crowns [as received] at 1990 prices, which is more than 37 million crowns or 21.4% less than in 1991, according to the republican Statistical Department.

Meat and cereals output fell by 15.7% and 32.8% respectively. 27% of cereals and 66% of potatoes were produced in the private sector, whose total output dropped to 24% on the 1991 figure compared with 20.3% in the state sector.

The number of cattle and poultry in the state sector fell by 17% and 52% respectively.

The country's annual production of milk, eggs and meat and meat products ran at 900 tonnes, 430 million pieces, and 138,000 tonnes respectively.

Industrial Output Falls by 39%

Last year's industrial production dropped by 39% on the year before. It ran at a cost of 943 million crowns in December which is 42% less than in 1991.

Among the worst-hit industries are pulp-and-paper (64%), construction (60%), machine tools and engineering (57%) and chemicals (54%).

Latvia

Minister Comments on State of Relations With Russia

OW0802130493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1155 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Despite complex problems which have appeared in Latvian-Russian relations, Latvia will do everything to establish civilized relations between two countries. This was declared by head of Latvian delegation at the negotiations with Russia, state minister Janis Dinevics, in his interview with newspaper "SM-TODAY." At the same time, as Dinevics said, "Everything what is being done by Russia with respect to Latvia's Russian-speaking population brings no good."

"If Russia delays improving our relations, prevents nearing of our private firms, it will bring a serious damage to herself." Dinevics said. As he put it, other great powers can occupy Russia's place.

Speaking about withdrawal of Russian forces from republic's territory, Dinevics pointed out that though Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev called 1994 the final term of forces' withdrawal, head of Russian delegation Sergey Zotov relates this date with several additional provisions though he has not enumerated them.